













## WORLD TRADE NEWS

British manufacturers must promote goods overseas in the same way as they do in the domestic market, according to Mr. Michael Montague, Chairman of the Valor Group. Denis Foster reports.

## No new exporters please

"EVERY TIME I read about one of these British Shopping Weeks, I'm reminded of a 1920 musical. They were right in their day, but wrong now. They're pure Gilbert and Sullivan. I ran the British Week in Hong Kong in 1967 and the British Week in Tokyo in 1968. The Tokyo one was right. The Hong Kong one was totally wrong. I take the credit for the former and the shame for the latter. The Japanese market is full of myths, which no one understood. The only way to get exporters to understand it was to get them out to see for themselves. The British always understood Hong Kong and the Week did nothing to increase our market share."

"What is needed is increased experience in the market to generate demand for the product, for example neon signs, advertisements in newspapers and so on. What's needed is policies which cause companies to open offices to locate markets in serious."

Thus Mr. Michael Montague, who became chairman of the Valor Group in 1968 at the age of 38 and turned a loss of £500,000 in 1969 into a net profit after taxation of £135m in the year ended March 1973. Profits for the first half of this year were £1.3m, almost equal to the total profits of last year.

"It is time for industry and government to grow up. Up to now, they have been quite juvenile, and have been geared to new exporters. This would have been quite right 20 years ago, but partly right 10 years ago, but now we don't want any new exporters at all. The operation should be geared to getting modest exporters to become big exporters and getting big exporters to become bigger exporters."

"We have got to persuade manufacturers to promote goods in overseas markets in exactly the same way they do in the home market. What we need is marketing overseas. We don't need to market Britain. There is no need for great displays of

British goods. We just need individual companies with their own men, not visiting markets. They are 20 times the number of Japanese businessmen living in London as British businessmen living in Tokyo. The same is true of Americans, Germans and even Italians. Why? Look in any newspaper and see how few, if any, recruitment advertisements there are for salesmen overseas."

After reorganising the domestic operations of the group which specialises in the manufacture of heating and cooking appliances, engineering components, lamps, mantles and camping gas appliances, and which suffered a serious setback in the early '60s, Mr. Montague turned his attention in 1970 to overseas sales. Direct exports amounted to just over £384,000 in the year ended March 1970. Export earnings, including invisibles accruing from overseas investment and licensing agreements which only started in 1971, are confidently expected to reach around £3m this year.

Mr. Montague denies that Valor is a small exporter and prefers the description of "medium-size exporter."

"Our results may be minimal in terms of the national export performance," he says, "but not in terms of Valor, which is only a medium-sized company. We export more than 10 per cent. of our turnover. If every company did that, there would be no national overseas trading problem at all."

"We have practised what I believe," he stresses, anticipating the question, "We are out in the overseas market place with some of our best men living there furthering our interests. Valor operates in about 70 countries, the main markets being Japan, South Africa and the U.S. There are full-time Valor employees in Japan, South Africa, the U.S., Belgium, Brazil, Holland, France and Singapore, and agents in most important areas. As a result, the name of Valor is first to get to know your market."



Mr. Michael Montague—time for industry and government to grow up.

mainly through local agents, then try to get a volume of the market sufficient to justify an investment and then to manufacture there yourself. Acquisitions also play a large part in his strategy. Last year, for example, Valor bought Cadac, S. Africa's brand leader in LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) appliances for £1m. Although its operations have so far been mainly concentrated outside Europe, it has been working for the past 15 months to implement major operations inside the EEC, details of which will be announced soon.

Britain's export performance during the past three years is described as "patchy." "Some activities have been worthwhile," he agrees, "but it appears as a sterile period with very little if anything new being attempted. It all seems rather dated to me with no new initiatives, no new policy," says Mr. Montague.

The lack of new policies is defined as the continuance of the missions scheme, joint venture exhibitions and financially assisted market research, which are all seen as worthy aims. They are, however, ideas thought up half a decade ago, primarily

would earn far more foreign exchange than by the banging of the drum. Products during the exhibition may sell, but may not provide nearly so much continuing foreign exchange earnings.

"What is needed is taxation relief, loans and even grants. Practical support for companies which engage in new overseas promotional activities such as locating salesmen, establishing overseas offices and distribution systems setting up after-sales service, and even devising advertising campaigns for the launching of new products. The operation would be supervised in exactly the same way as the industry Act which is designed to stimulate employment in the development areas, i.e. authorities of businessmen who understand these matters and who would reject any application they regarded as unlikely to succeed."

Mr. Montague does not want the old British National Export Council, with which he was closely involved, to be recreated. He applauds the BOTB idea which is supposed to give real export promotional authority to businessmen, but not to a handful and "not to a machine which is totally within the Civil Service."

The sad aspect is the enormous amount of enthusiastic civil service talent which is being wasted. The impression I have of individual people is extremely high. Unfortunately, they are hampered by the wrong effort.

"Capable as the Board members of the BOTB may be, they cannot be expected to know what is going on in all parts of the world and in all trades. Thus their sources of information have become the civil servants both at home and in our embassies overseas who, with no actual commercial experience or connection, can only identify a situation when it is already in black or white, while of course to an experienced businessman it is often second sense and intuition. Most of that is not present at the moment."

## Banker forecasts \$4,300m trade surplus for U.S.

IF PRESENT trends continue, the U.S. should record a healthy turnaround in its international trade account and end this year with a trade surplus of \$4,300m, according to Dr. Richard G. Kjeldsen, vice-president and director of Security Pacific Bank's international studies.

He said that the bank's latest economic forecast projects America's exports at \$89,300m by the year end, while imports will total \$85,000m. For 1974, Mr. Kjeldsen anticipates a continued trade surplus for the nation. He believes this position may soften in 1974, closing months even though the U.S. will retain its surplus.

"Current forecasts point to a 35 per cent. increase in this year's exports while next year should see only an 8.4 per cent. annual gain in American exports."

He attributes the change to the effects of the February devaluation, a sharp upswing in agricultural exports in early 1973 and a lower inflation rate compared with many other major industrialised nations.

"These factors have increased America's competitive position in its foreign trade—particularly with such major partners as Canada, Japan, Germany and other Common Market members."

"This forecast is predicated on several assumptions regarding the outlook for the strength of the U.S. dollar," Mr. Kjeldsen adds.

He believes the dollar will continue its comeback and attributes this strengthening to the change in market assessment of the impact of Arab oil moves on various industrialised nations.

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 28. "The U.S. is much more sufficient in oil than Europe or Japan," he says. Mr. Kjeldsen characterises recent international monetary forms as stop-gaps rather than efforts to achieve a long-term solution to problems.

While conceding that events have undermined confidence in the existing monetary framework—leading to spread doubt as to its viability—Mr. Kjeldsen has doubts as to when further reform will occur. "The relative calm in the markets — particularly stability of the American dollar — may have weakened the impetus towards further reform. In words, rarely has any monetary reform emerged from a non-crisis environment."

## Ford takes new engine licence

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

THE Ford Motor Company announced in the U.S. yesterday that it had entered into an agreement with KB United Stirling (Sweden) of Malmö, providing for an exchange of technical information and certain patent rights relating to Stirling engines.

United Stirling has been developing Stirling Engines for Ford since June, 1972, and is installing engines in Pinto vehicles for testing by Ford.

Ford has had an agreement with Philips Gloeilampenfabriek of Eindhoven, Holland, and the U.S. Philips Corporation of New York since July, 1972, for the development of Stirling engines and an exchange of information and certain related patent rights.

The United Stirling design is different to the Philips design. "Although Stirling engines all operate on the same principle, there can be substantial differences in their design," said Mr. Jack D. Collins, executive director, engine research, product planning and research, of Ford.

Mr. Collins went on: "Our relationship to date with United Stirling has not involved an exchange of technical information. We anticipate that this new agreement will allow Ford to work closely with United Stirling (and

Philips) to bring about a more rapid development of the Stirling engine."

The engine employs a sealed-for-life working gas which alternately expands and contracts as a result of an external combustion system.

It is, says Ford, potentially more efficient since it allows

continuous and virtually silent combustion. Additional advantages are much reduced exhaust emission and silent operation. Its fuel economy is superior to that of conventional engines with relatively small modifications it can run on alternate fuels, the company adds.

## Bangladesh obtains \$17m. loan

BY OUR ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Asian Development Bank has made three loans to Bangladesh totalling more than \$17m. for power development and port improvement.

Two loans, together worth \$10.45m., will go to projects for improving the power system in the main port of Bangladesh, the system in the East zone by the Ganga-Brahmaputra river network. Power demands in the area have been rising rapidly and by 1975 West Bangladesh will need an estimated 90MW more than double its present capacity, and this demand is expected to rise to 145MW by 1980.

The major users are industries, which include jute, cotton spinning, paper, sugar and steel

re-rolling mills. The system in West Bangladesh badly hit during the 1971 war. Another \$6.8m. from the bank will go towards a \$15.8m. project for improving Chittagong port. The Asian Development Bank itself expects to lend a further \$400m. this year, compared with \$316m. last year. It reports its cumulative lending since it was founded in 1966 has topped the \$1,000m. mark. In its latest quarterly report the Bank says it plans to increasingly concentrate on providing assistance to smaller and less developed countries and for projects having important social impact on the community.

## Major U.K.-Iran contracts announced

BY DAVID HOUSEGO

AS THE Iran-British investment agreements, Mr. Peter Walker, conference was crowned here the British Secretary of State tonight by the announcement for Trade and Industry, committed himself to launching a

campaign in Britain to extend co-operation between the two States.

Altogether, Britain will participate in projects here valued at £240m. and a further £10m. worth are under negotiation. Among the companies involved are British Leyland, Massey Ferguson, the British Steel Corporation, Acrow Engineers, the Flower Group, Hawker Siddeley, Compair and Morgan Grenfell.

The joint ventures represent agreements already concluded, but held back by Iranian requests to add flourish to the Conference, new projects and some in which the final details were only settled in the hours before the closing session.

**Mutual benefit**

In a speech to-night, Mr. Walker described the occasion as "a unique, historic opportunity" and sketched out what he evidently believes could be a new pattern of relations between Britain and a developing nation.

He declared that the economies of Britain and Iran had reached a stage where they could be linked to the mutual benefit of both. Britain suffered from limitations in its industrial capacity, both through shortages of raw materials but more particularly of manpower. It had, however, considerable technical expertise.

He foresaw Iran as one of the most powerful industrial and commercial nations of the world by the 1990s. Already it had one of the world's fastest-growing economies and immense potential to harness its considerable mineral resources and manpower.

A new relationship between Britain and Iran, he declared, finished and finished steel products aimed at the home and export market.

campaign in Britain to extend co-operation between the two States. "I don't think that ever before we have decided," he added, "to look at our problems of capacity and see where we can find partners in the international scene with whom we can swiftly and quickly increase our capacity to the mutual benefit of the countries concerned."

He said that in Britain this would require a new outlook by management, by the trade union and by the Government. But he could think of no better partner than Iran.

Possibilities of co-operation existed in energy—particularly in the long-term development of nuclear energy—a joint approach to marketing problems and in finance. He foresaw Tehran emerging as one of the great financial centres of the world which could draw on the City of London's experience.

Among the large projects announced to-day, the British Steel Corporation is to participate in the building of a cold rolled sheet mill that will probably be situated near Isfahan. The total cost of the project is between \$80m. to £100m. and it is expected to come on stream in about 1978. In the initial stages, BSC is hoping to sell Iran the hot rolled coil that is the feedstock for the plant. The Corporation will have a 20 per cent. equity holding in the company which means a capital commitment of over £7m. They will also get fees for technical services.

**Joint venture**

In an unexpected announcement, it was equally declared to-night that BSC are to carry out a joint feasibility study with an Iranian partner for a joint venture for the production of 2.5m. tons annually of semi-finished and finished steel products aimed at the home and export market.

Acrow Engineers are to build Iran's second heavy machine plant in conjunction with the State organisation IDRO. It is to be sited at Ahwaz and will produce heavy process plant for the oil industry including pressure vessels, reactors, heat exchangers, storage tanks, process pumps and distillation columns.

The company's chairman, Mr. W. A. de Vigier, to-day put the initial cost which covers the land, the building, equipment and the training of Iranian staff at over £850,000. Half of this will be loan capital.

Acrow is to hold 40 per cent. of the equity. Mr. Vigier hopes that the plant will be the basis in the future for extensive sales to the other oil states of the Gulf.

**Licensing deal**

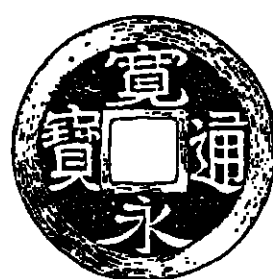
Compair (International Compressed Air Corporation) has won a licensing agreement under which the company's products will be made in Iran by IDRO. The investment is to be put up by the Iranian Government. Compair will however have a right to acquire an equity holding once production has begun. The Iranians are eventually looking to a share in Compair's foreign markets.

The British Leyland project is for the manufacture of double-decker buses. Massey Ferguson is to participate in a tractor assembly with the Perkins group providing a range of diesel engines. The main agricultural agreement is with the Flower group which is to establish animal receiving centres near Tehran and on the Caspian. The meat and dairy complexes involved and the purchase of the cattle will require about \$50m. The project is directed towards helping the medium-sized farmer and is to mature over five years.

## A lesson in money



Depicted above is the "Cartwheel" (because of its size and weight, twopenny, the only twopenny copper coin ever issued in England, and appearing during the reign of George III. Of interest is the fact that the lettering is "incuse," not the customary "relief" style.



Around the time the "Cartwheel" twopenny was issued, the Kan-Ei-Tsuu-Hoo was the coin circulating most frequently in Japan. As shown in the illustration, most old Japanese coins have a square hole in the center. People used to call such coins "chohimoku" (bird's eye).

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**BY ADRIAN DICKS**

# California may permit offshore drilling to resume

BY GUY DE IONOUJERES

NEW YORK, Nov. 28.

Six oil companies hold leases on the offshore reserves, which are estimated to contain between 500,000 and 3,000,000 barrels. The companies are Exxon, Atlantic Richfield, Signal, Union Oil, and Phillips Petroleum.

Meanwhile, the widening price gap caused by the energy crisis has spread to corporate securities. The Securities and Exchange Commission has directed the industry to prepare a guidebook which would require com-

**THE CHAIRMAN** of the Joint International Economic Subcommittee, Congressman Henry Reuss, to-day termed the week-end meeting of the group of five "regrettable."

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## Shultz talks criticised

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Mr. Reuss was commenting on reports that the U.S. had agreed to let foreign central banks intervene to keep the dollar at its February, 1973, devaluation level.

"If Press reports are correct Secretary (George) Shultz's conversations . . . were made without consultation with the other nine countries and without consultation with a Congress that has been both concerned and constructive where international monetary affairs are involved," he said. Reuter

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28

expires at midnight on Friday, leaving three days to work out a compromise with the House of Representatives, which passed a debt ceiling measure but without

## How to profit from crisis

BY DAVID BELL

the rise in the price of oil has caused the companies to reassess the economics of alternative energy sources.

(NASA) a major employer even though it has been contracting in the past few years.

geology degree in the early 1930s and has been finding and selling oil ever since. He carries with him copies of a speech he made in 1960 warning that there would

Houston believes that they will be dark for very long.

"In Houston . . . there is a feeling that a boom is just around the corner . . . as the search for new and additional sources of energy gets under way."

So fast has the city grown that growth is now its chief problem.

soon he compulsorily turned on the lights to save electricity, but no one in Houston believes that they will be dark for very long.

## Aluminium industry pay talks open

BY GUY DE IONQUIERES

NEW YORK, Nov. 28.

THE ALUMINIUM industry and the United Steelworkers' Union are making an early start in their efforts to negotiate a new three-year labour contract for the union's 29,500 members employed by the three leading aluminium producers.

The early beginning is the fruit of an agreement reached between the union and management last August, intended to reduce the threat of a strike. Although a strike was avoided,

Although the number of workers covered by the talks is relatively small, they are being watched closely as a belated

The aluminium workers of negotiators have not disclosed their precise demands, though they are talking in terms of a "substantial" wage increase.



## ***Fiat makes the 128 Coupé***

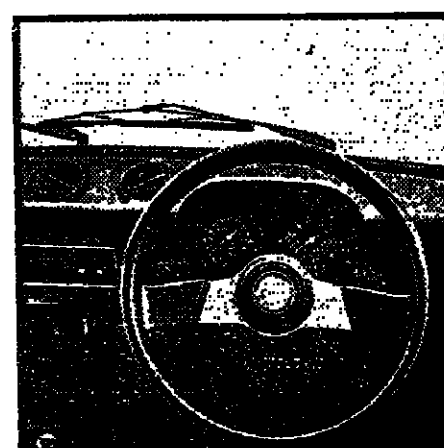
*In the tradition of the finest Italian styling and engineering, the Fiat 128 Coupé is a truly dynamic car. The 1290cc unit gives 100 mph in 0.60 in only 11.3 seconds. And for spectacular roadholding, the engine is transversely mounted with front wheel drive — a feature unique in a car of this class.*

As might be expected of a luxury coupé, the equipment is generous. Electronic rev counter, special steering wheel, heated rear window, adjustable seat backs, carpeting, independent circuit brakes, servo assisted front discs and radial ply tyres are all standard. What may come as a surprise is that such an astonishingly attractive car is a full 4 seater with a 12 cu. ft. family size boot. In fact the only thing that we've skimped on with the 128 Coupé is price. **£1432.39** inc. Car Tax and VAT. (Delivery charges, seat belts and number plates extra).

### Table 1. (continued)

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## EUROPEAN NEWS

## Record trade surplus for West Germany in October

BY MALCOLM RUTHERFORD

BONN, Nov. 28.

WEST GERMANY had a record trade surplus in October for the fourth month running. At just under DM4,000m. (about £660m.), it was nearly DM300m. up on September and over DM1,300m. up on October, 1972.

The surplus for the first ten months of the year together was DM26,800m. and for the year as a whole is likely to be well above the DM30,000m.

The announcement, however, had little effect on the foreign exchange markets, which apparently now regard such figures as a reflection of past orders rather than future prospects for overall economic performance.

The markets were rather more interested in the latest reserve figures issued by the Bundesbank. These show the Bank's net external reserves fell by DM1,400m. to DM95,400m. in the week ending November 23 and suggests that the authorities took the opportunity to sell off some surplus dollars. It was also obliged to support the D-Mark against some other currencies in the European snake.

Taking account of a DM1,700m. deficit on transfer payments and services, the current account surplus in October was a provisional DM2,300m. In the first ten months of the year together, it was DM6,600m. against a deficit of DM900m. in the comparable period of 1972. The deficit on services in the period was DM7,700m. and on transfer payments DM12,500m.

October exports were worth DM17,914m., 24 per cent. up on October 1972 and 29 per cent. up on September imports were worth DM13,960m.—up 18 per cent. on a year ago and 25 per cent. on September. Exports in the first ten months were up 21 per cent. and imports up 13 per cent. The high surplus was generally expected to continue, and possibly even to increase in the next few months.

## Sweden may pull out of uranium plant plan

By Hilary Barnes

COPENHAGEN, Nov. 28.

SWEDEN is unlikely to take part in the French project to build a uranium enrichment plant, although no government decision has been taken so far.

The Swedish Government has not made up its mind but it is doubtful whether the project is of great enough interest to Tony Hagström, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

The Swedish Atomic Commission, together with its equivalent organisations in France, Spain, Italy and Belgium has been studying a project for constructing an enrichment plant using the gas diffusion process. The five-nation project is known as Eurodif.

The French Government has decided to go ahead with the construction of a plant in France, whether or not the other nations wish to take part, said Mr. Hagström. Eurodif would have to decide whether other nations should join in the project. No decision had yet been taken on this or on a possible Swedish participation.

According to news agency reports from Stockholm, the Industry Minister Rune Johansson said that Sweden could participate in a project with NATO countries because the would jeopardise Sweden's neutrality, but Mr. Hagström said this was a misunderstanding.

He said that a Swedish site was also considered as one alternative for the Eurodif plant, but it had become apparent that there would be some difficulty in having a plant of this size in northern Sweden close to the Soviet border because of the questions it would raise for other participating nations.

Rupert Cornwell reports from Paris: France seems the most likely site for the Eurodif uranium enrichment plant.

BRUSSELS, Nov. 28.

## BELGIUM RAISES BANK RATE

The Belgian National Bank announced an increase by 1 per cent. to 7½ per cent. of its discount rate from tomorrow.

It was reported from Ankara that Turkey today raised its discount rates by 1 per cent. to 8½ per cent. The pound will cost 4 per cent. less in relation to the Turkish lira.

## ORTF interview row sparks French clash on censorship

BY GILES MERRITT

PARIS, Nov. 28.

FRENCH Left-wing and Right-wing supporters have already begun to clash over the issue of the muzzling of a radio interview with the ex-head of the ORTF broadcasting monopoly, M. Arthur Conte.

Summarily dismissed a month ago because he triggered off an embarrassing row over governmental interference in the ORTF's coverage of hot political issues, M. Conte was this week prevented from appearing on a nationwide radio programme. The show was cancelled only minutes before going out on the air, with the only inference to be drawn that the authorities feared he might make even more serious revelations during the programme than he has in the 325-page "Memoire" he has just published of his time as ORTF chief.

Radio and TV workers' unions have now issued pointed statements declaring their intention to fight the current wave of censorship, while some Gaullist hardliners have countered with urgent requests that the Government make it quite clear that broadcasting executives "are not the proprietors of the air time given them."

In the National Assembly

to-day, the Gaullist deputy who leads the standing parliamentary committee on information questions, asked in a written question to Information Minister M. Jean-Philippe Lecat, if the Minister would use his power to remind ORTF employees that they "owed their first duty to listeners and viewers."

The point of the question was to underline the conservative UDR Party's view that the broad-casting monopoly is very much its master's voice. This fact was largely accepted until last month, when M. Conte brought the system out into the open by exposing the then Information Minister's use of "financial blackmail" to get the ORTF to dismiss "communists" working for the France-Culture radio service.

That, and his revelations that "political interference" by the government on touchy issues was standard practice, not only led to his sacking and that of Information Minister Philippe Malaud but to a damaging new controversy on the whole question of censorship.

Until now, the ORTF's personnel has scarcely been noted for its determination to operate as an independent entity. Following the "Events of May" in 1968, when over 40 per cent. of

the monopoly's journalists were purged for having pushed for a BBC-style charter, the ORTF became a very subdued organisation. Senior civil servants from the Interior Ministry were even appointed (on secondment) to top ORTF jobs, as if to highlight the blurred division between government and broadcasting.

But M. Conte, who until last month was not greatly noted for his spirited independence, appears to have been the catalyst which may well lead to a bitter confrontation between the authorities and the ORTF. The leading FSU, which groups all trade unions inside the ORTF, this morning called on the monopoly's new head, civil servant M. Marceau Long, to "un-politicise" the service. The FSU further warned that as of December 6, the day scheduled for a General Strike throughout France in protest against the Government's anti-inflation measures, it may start a series of disruptive strikes.

Another ORTF union, the industrial SP, has also stated that it will in future reject all forms of censorship. Under the existing system, it is a decision which will almost inevitably lead to open conflict between M. Messmer's administration and the broadcasting service.

## Common Market can mine up to 20% more coal

BY REGINALD DALE, COMMON MARKET CORRESPONDENT

BRUSSELS, Nov. 28.

COAL OUTPUT in the Common Market could be quickly increased by up to 20 per cent. in response to the energy crisis, Dr. Karlheinz Reichert, director for coal in the Brussels Commission, said in Luxembourg today. But he warned that such an increase reflected the most optimistic estimates and could in any case only be maintained for a few months.

A temporary increase in output was basically a manpower problem, Dr. Reichert told a conference on coalmining techniques. After all that European miners had been through in the last 15 years, they were unlikely to respond to "mere pleas."

More should be done to introduce a sixth shift per week and for a short period of perhaps three weeks underground work could be

abandoned and the work force put on to coal extraction, Dr. Reichert said. "If this were done under optimum conditions, optimists with a high opinion of the efficiency of the mining industry firmly believe that, for a few months, output could be increased by up to 20 per cent," he stated.

## Policy needed

Although many community coal mines now once again had an opportunity to become competitive, such a shorter-term solution could not be contemplated for longer periods, Dr. Reichert continued. If a permanent increase in output were to be achieved, new capital must be invested and the labour force expanded. This would only be possible if the community had a long term coal policy.

It was not at all clear, however,

just how much flexibility really existed in the choice of fuel by energy-consuming industries, he stated. The amount of coal burnt in power stations in the Community this year ranged from 2 to 4 per cent. in Italy, the Netherlands and Ireland; up to 40 per cent. in Germany and Denmark, and 70 per cent. in the U.K.

Dr. Reichert suggested that the Community should follow the example of the British Department of Trade and Industry, which carried out a survey of reactions to a cut of 10 or 20 per cent. in their energy supplies, first for a period of three months and then for three years.

All the signs were that the curtailment of oil supplies and unilateral price increases were not just temporary phenomena. Dr. Reichert said. Heavy fuel oil, even before tax, would soon lose its competitive edge over nuclear

energy, natural gas and lignite provided the price of these other energy sources did not rise in parallel, he added.

The Community could expect any assistance from increased coal imports from countries like the U.S., Canada, Australia or South Africa. "There are no prospects of obtaining significant extra quantities on the world market, even long-term contracts, normally considered a safe basis for supplies, are not always faithful to the extent hoped for by the purchaser," he pointed out.

The Community depended on oil for 62 per cent. of its energy requirements and only 19 per cent. on coal, Dr. Reichert said. "The disappearance of oil from our daily lives is inconceivable," he added. Coal production in the Community had fallen from 500m tons in 1967 to 273m tons this year, he stated.

## French Union of the Left to draw up new programme

BY GILES MERRITT

PARIS, Nov. 28.

FRANCE'S Union of the Left coalition of Communists, Socialists and left-wing radicals which was formed to fight the General Election held in March this year has revealed that it is to revise the "Common Programme" on which it based its narrowly unsuccessful election campaign.

According to a joint statement issued by the Secretary-General of the French Communist Party, M. Georges Marchais, and M. Francois Mitterrand, head of the Socialist Party, four separate commissions have been set-up to examine ways in which the programme could be updated. This, it has been explained, would ensure that the Union of the Left's programme would be

in line with developments that have taken place since last summer. The commissions will each study one of four separate areas: European relations, European defence, industrial questions and France's economic policies.

The Union of the Left communiqué also stated that in future the three parties will be holding regular and formal "summits" at three monthly intervals. Clearly it is no accident that the Left has chosen this moment to issue a reminder that it is already preparing its next election campaign. With the opinion polls showing a dramatic fall in

the popularity of both the Prime Minister, M. Pierre Messmer, and the Finance Minister, M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, facing a general strike on the issue of inflation in only a week's time, the left-wing coalition is in a healthy position.

At the back of their minds, too, there is the question of the next Presidential election. Not only has M. Pompidou's personal authority of late received a number of serious setbacks, continuing rumours of his failing health have done much to encourage speculation that the next Presidential race could be as early as next year rather than 1976.

## Simonet under fire in Brussels

BY REGINALD DALE

BRUSSELS, Nov. 28.

M. HENRI SIMONET, Belgian member of the Common Market Commission, who has already provoked Press criticism for his silence over the energy crisis, is now under fire from another direction in Brussels.

A Flemish weekly review, *De Vlaamse Elsevier*, is alleging that M. Simonet exercised undue pressure inside the Commission to ensure that money from the Common fund be allocated to the Brussels district of which he was formerly the mayor.

The allegation that M. Simonet persuaded the Commission to make a grant of reportedly over £60,000 for modernising the Anderlecht slaughter house, despite the fact that the venture is not regarded as economically viable by many cattle experts, in agreeing to the payment, the Commission services are claimed to have ignored the recommendations of their own specialists in such matters.

A Commission spokesman to-day claimed that the payment to the Anderlecht authorities was perfectly "regular," but he was unable to say if the advice of cattle experts had been sought or taken.

The Anderlecht authorities are planning to spend a total of over £1.6m. modernising the abattoir, despite the fact that many specialists believe the slaughter house on the outskirts of Brussels would make more economic sense.

The Socialist M. Simonet has often been accused of devoting almost as much time to the affairs of Anderlecht, a working class district near the centre of Brussels, as he does to those of the Commission. Although he is responsible for energy policy, he has been widely criticised for so far declining to make any public statement on the oil crisis.

## Italy in further EEC court cases

By A. H. Hermann

THREE NEW LAW cases before the European Court in Luxembourg have been added to the long saga of the Commission's efforts to bring the Italian Government's procrastination over Common Market rules to an end. Two of these cases were initiated by the Commission to impose special import taxes on falls to implement EEC rules on port requirements. The third is an appeal by the Italian Government against a Commission decision insisting on certain social security payments by Italian textile manufacturers.

The commission wants the court to order Italy to enforce "positive" that trucks should not spend more than 10 hours a day at the wheel.

In the other case, the Commission said special taxes of shipments of goods levied at source and destination amounted to import and export duties, which have been phased out in the Common Market and should not be charged.

The Italian appeal, though it appears to concern a matter of social security, has in fact been bearing on the new trade rules of the Common Market. The Commission's decision which the Italian Government attacked before the Court would prevent Italian textile manufacturers being relieved of social security payments connected with their allowances for three years. The reasoning behind this decision is that such an exception for Italian manufacturers would give them an unfair advantage over other EEC textile manufacturers who are obliged to make the contribution payments.



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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

The Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of IFI—Istituto Finanziario Industriale—was held in Turin on October 29, under the chairmanship of Mr. Giovanni Agnelli. The meeting approved the balance sheet for the operating year ended June 30, 1973, which closed with a profit of \$12.6 million, an increase of 12% over the previous year. This increased profit corresponds mainly to a rise in dividends received, due to the increased profitability of international investments.

The profit was partly set aside and partly distributed to shareholders. The dividend, which became payable on November 5, is 80 lire for ordinary shares and 130 lire for preferred shares, of which half was distributed as an interim dividend last April.

Mr. Agnelli introduced his analysis of the trends of IFI and associated companies with some remarks on the state of the Italian economy. He noted the appreciable results of the new economic measures adopted by the government; but stressed that they have dealt with the symptoms rather than with the causes of the difficulties in which Italian society finds itself: the deep structural causes, indeed, remain substantially unchanged.

Mr. Agnelli indicated that the way out of the situation would be a concerted planning with the commitment of all the social forces involved. The present willingness of the labour organisations to engage in global negotiations with the Government and Management leaves room for hope that this type of policy can effectively be realised.

In this economic climate IFI's financial policy has been aimed at widening the scope of the stock market, in order to offer new opportunities to the investor. It was with this in mind that the equity capital of IFI, IFI International, IFIL and UNICEM was raised, and that an increase was proposed for SAI; while UNICEM and IFI International become public companies and were listed for the first time on the Stock Exchange, the former in Italy, the latter in Luxembourg. During the course of the financial year IFI increased the value of its own portfolio by \$34 million selecting its new share holdings in line with the policies which are guiding the Group's

investment strategy. IFI International also stepped up its holdings. The global value of the Group's holdings (at market value for the companies whose shares are quoted on the Stock Exchange, and at book value for those not listed) at present amounts to \$670 million. The most noteworthy new holdings are those in ISAB (refinement of mineral oils), in Intermobiliare (investment banking and money broking) through its associated company IFIL, and, through IFI International, in Corporate Property Investors and in the Club Méditerranée.

The report ended with a full and wide-ranging analysis of the performance of the main associated companies (with sales or revenues in each case):

- In the mechanical industry FIAT (\$3.6 billion);
- RIV-SKF (\$162 million);
- In insurance SAI (\$258 million premiums written);
- In the finance sector IFI International (\$5.2 million), IFI's international associate company with holdings in multinational companies such as Cinzano and SKF;
- IFIL (\$1.2 million);
- In publishing the FABBRI Group (\$57.5 million);
- In retail distribution LA RINASCENTE (\$505 million);
- In the cement and refractories industries UNICEM (\$35.6 million);
- SIRMA (\$28.6 million);
- In the mineral oil refinement ISAB (investments totalling over \$300 million).

The Board of Directors, all of whom were reconfirmed in their appointments, comprises Giovanni Agnelli (Chairman and Managing Director), Giovanni Nasi (Vice-Chairman), Gian Luigi Gabetti (Managing Director and General Manager), Umberto Agnelli, Franco Bobba, Gaudenzio Bono, Agostino Canonica, Pasquale Chiomenti, Francesco Rota.

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained by writing to:

IFI—Istituto Finanziario Industriale,  
Ufficio Relazioni Pubbliche,  
Via C. Marengo 25—10126 Torino—Italy.

JPKist's



## U.S. is an equal partner says EEC 'image' study

BY REGINALD DALE, COMMON MARKET CORRESPONDENT

BRUSSELS, Nov. 28.

EUROPE that is an equal partner of the U.S. independent of the super powers, and ready to forge fresh links with all the other countries from China to Peru—this is the vision of the European Community's new study that will be endorsed by the nine Heads of Government at their summit meeting in Copenhagen next month.

The somewhat vague image of the Community has been contained in a report on the European Identity, drawn up by French initiative, which is to be published to coincide with the mid-December summit. The main outlines of the report are to be finalised by the end of the month, but the main outlines of a document are now generally agreed.

The principal question mark hangs over a section devoted to the Community's role at present there is no alternative to the protection provided by the U.S. nuclear umbrella and the presence of American troops in Europe. The study, which is still subject to revision by some of the nine member states, goes on to say that in the event of a relative military unbalance, Europe must make constant effort to acquire an adequate defence capability if it is to preserve its independence. The part of the report dealing

with Europe's internal integration reveals that the general broad lines of the Community have been agreed in common: democracy, social justice, the respect of human rights, and the rule of law. It reaffirms that the Common Market, together with its common institutions, policies and practices, remains an integral part of the "European Identity".

Objectives of the earlier Hague and Paris summits are reaffirmed, as is last year's commitment to full "European unity" by the end of the decade. Membership of the Community should remain open to other European countries that share the same ideals, and objectives. In the Nine's view,

internationally, the growing concentration of strength in the hands of a very small number of great powers means that Europe must speak more and more "with one voice" if it is to play its proper world role. At the same time the Community must exercise a positive influence on the world's economy and not be dependent on decisions taken outside Europe.

The Nine must progressively adopt common positions in foreign policy, so as to ensure that international developments do not prejudice the security, independence, prosperity and social progress of the western European. The Community's links with the U.S. are "mutually

beneficial" and should be maintained, but Europe remains a "distinct entity" and must talk to the U.S. as an equal partner. The "European identity" involves increased co-operation with virtually every other country in the world, including the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, China, the Middle Eastern and Mediterranean countries, the Community's associate states in Africa and elsewhere, the other industrialised countries, including Canada and Japan, the countries of Asia and Latin America and developing countries generally.

China, in particular, is singled out for special attention. The Nine should intensify their relations with the Peking Government, step up trade and other exchanges and have increased contacts with Chinese leaders.

As for the Middle East, the draft report says the Nine want to preserve their historic links with all the countries in the area and co-operate in establishing and maintaining peace, stability and progress. The Nine also say they attach fundamental importance to their policy of association with developing countries.

The aim is to keep the definition of "European identity" under constant review, and update it in the light of further integration towards European

## Greek pledge of return to democracy

By Our Own Correspondent

ATHENS, Nov. 28.

GREECE'S new military regime tonight promised to return the country to parliamentary rule but failed to give an indication of when this will be.

Making his policy statement on radio and television, Premier Andreas Papandreu said the present constitution which was inapplicable would be replaced by another to be drafted by his government. Until then, constitutional power would be exercised by the Cabinet by means of constitutional decrees, sparingly and always within the absolutely necessary limits for the functioning of the state.

Premier Papandreu said Greece remained faithful to her alliances while seeking good relations with all countries, especially neighbouring countries.

He said his government would seek to improve economic relations with Western Europe. But he warned that the country's foreign policy was guided by the principles of non-interference in domestic affairs and said Greece would abide by her commitments while at the same time claiming her rights.

Premier Papandreu said his government neither wanted to perpetuate the regime of emergency powers nor to establish itself as a regime. Its ambition was to prepare the country for a genuine democratic system and reinstate the people's sovereignty.

In the economic sector, the Premier promised to create conditions for short-term economic equilibrium and to try to curb price increases within reasonable economic and social limits.

He said his government supported private initiative in conjunction with State infrastructure works for the development of the country. Public expenditure, however, would be curbed.

Students would be allowed to express their opinion on both academic and national problems freely. But they would not be allowed to disturb law and order.

On November 29 1943, 200 Yugoslav partisans gathered in the Bosnian town of Jajce and made Marshal Tito head of a new Federation. David Lascelles reports on where the Marshal and his state now stand.

## Thirty years of Tito's rule

YUGOSLAVIA'S 30th birthday finds the country recovering from what has probably been its worst crisis since the break with Stalin 25 years ago. During the last three years there have been violent regional disputes, chronic economic problems, and a growing loss of confidence in the ruling League of Communists.

But through an immense effort of will the 81-year-old President Tito has held the country together. He is now engaged in a sweeping programme of reforms intended to set the country on a new course.

It is no exaggeration to talk of a grave crisis. The upheavals have been far worse than suggested by the esoteric vocabulary that the Yugoslav use to describe their political affairs. (They recently actually had to publish a glossary to explain such terms as anarchism, capitalism, and democratic centralism.) Many of the difficulties were caused by threats to party principles, but there were also genuine dangers that the federation could crack up and the economy grind to a halt.

The official explanation is that the League of Communists failed in its duty to discipline the country and hold it together. This is a serious charge. It is arguable whether a stronger League could have averted the regional troubles of 1970 or prevented the economic crisis that blew up last year. But it is true that President Tito's liberal policies, combined with the growing slackness of the League, did create so easy-going an atmosphere that ideology and, in many cases responsibility, went out of the window.

Intellectuals openly challenged party principles, and governments of individual republics increasingly went their own way. Self-management, that most hallowed of all President Tito's policies, was ignored by mana-

gers who could no longer be bothered to consult workers fully before taking decisions, and thousands of businesses drove themselves into bankruptcy through prodigal spending.

Perhaps because of the magnitude of Yugoslavia's troubles, President Tito was slow to respond. It is only now, three years after the crisis began to become serious, that order has been fully restored. The League has reasserted itself by purging government, business, and academic circles, not forgetting its own institutions, of undesirables and has ensured obedience from those who remain. As a result Yugoslav political life has lost its variety and subsided into a monochrome uniformity with long repetitive speeches and subservient media reporting them word for word. Everyone is toeing the line.

But the story is far from over. To consolidate the League's new hold on the country, especially now that the power of central government has been deliberately weakened, to satisfy regional demands, Tito is introducing a new constitution which will emphasise the leading role of his party and provide new safeguards against encroachments on workers' rights. This immense document (at 40,000 words said to be the longest constitution in the world) will radically alter the organisation of Yugoslav life down to the grass roots.

Many of the ideas contained in the constitution are so new that people have not yet fully grasped them, particularly abroad. Constituencies and members of Parliament are to be abolished and replaced by a system of delegates from factory and residential groupings.

Workers are also to be given a greater say in how the money earned by their factories or organisations is to be used. They can already decide if earnings

are to be paid out in extra wages, banked, or reinvested. But they will now be given a direct say in the bank or investment project in which they place the money.

Much of this is only theory and the practical details still have to be worked out, but the basic principles are clear: bureaucrats, technocrats, and other members of the administration shall not be permitted to interfere with workers' rights; only the League has overriding power.

Politically, then, Yugoslavia is undergoing a vigorous tightening up, and this has prompted some observers to ask whether President Tito has not after all come to believe that an authoritarian system on the Soviet model is best. This is true insofar as the League is, in its revamped form, the only voice that is allowed to speak. But no more than that.

President Tito's desire to place genuine power in the workers' hands is no less earnest now than it was when he launched self-management as an alternative to Stalinism in 1950, and as if to prove it he recently jeopardised the country's economy by throwing out thousands of managers, whatever their ability, who had abused the self-management system and arrogated power to themselves.

The reforms have, however, given weight to the argument that a Communist system needs firm leadership. This is especially true of the Yugoslav economy which has shown a remarkable recovery following the draconian measures introduced a year ago. Yugoslavia has always suffered serious economic problems. Some people might argue it survived only because the West was willing to subsidise a renegade from the Communist camp. Twelve months ago a serious liquidity crisis gripped the economy which was already suffering from a bad bout of its traditional ailments—a steep payments deficit and high inflation.

The Government introduced a far-reaching stabilisation programme which froze wages and prices, blocked the bank accounts of prodigal companies, and imposed levies on imports. The result has been a bleak year for the Yugoslavs. Their standard of living has fallen by an estimated 6 to 8 per cent., and there have been widespread food shortages. But the basic situation has shown unmistakable signs of improvement. Most of industry has overcome its liquidity crisis, meaning that investments have returned to normal, and the Government claims that such and demand are more balanced (except for food).

But the payments picture is the most striking. For the first time Yugoslavia has reserves totalling nearly \$1,500m., a figure that seems so high in Belgrade that officials are seriously wondering what to do with the money.

Inflation, however, has not been beaten. In the first nine months of 1973 prices rose by 18 per cent.; since that figure was calculated petrol prices have risen by 40 per cent., and meat prices 25 per cent. Officials are also disappointed by lagging growth. Industrial output is currently increasing by 6 per cent., the lowest rate for more than two years, and until the impact of new investments is felt there is little hope of a big improvement.

If President Tito may be depressed by some features of Yugoslav life as he looks back 30 years, he can gain comfort from the fact that his country's integrity in foreign affairs is unquestioned. The non-aligned movement which he heads may not be quite the world force he would wish, but no one has dared to suggest that he is proposing anything but an honest alternative to block-to-block politics.

## Ruhr steel pay claim settled

BY MALCOLM RUTHERFORD

BONN, Nov. 28.

THE PAY talks in the Ruhr steel industry ended early this morning with a settlement of 11 per cent. for the 220,000 workers involved. There will also be substantial fringe benefits in the run of higher rates for night, Sunday and holiday work and for training, plus larger production bonuses.

The new contracts will go into force on December 1 and will last for only 10 months—the shortest contracts in the history of the industry. The cost to the steel companies is put at about \$600m. for the period. The talks were the first in a series of pay negotiations which, the course of the next few weeks, will affect about half the total work force in the country. Though the steel industry is at present virtually alone in still

enjoying boom conditions, the 11 per cent. settlement is bound to have an effect on other sectors. From the government's point of view, at best it will become a "norm." At worst, it will become the floor, with other industries seeking to get ahead of the steel men.

Wage demands of up to 17 per cent. are expected to be submitted by the engineering union, IG Metall, which negotiates for over 4m. workers. Demands almost as high should come from the public services and transport workers' union, negotiating on behalf of more than 3m. The postal and railway workers, who together total not far short of another million, are talking in the same terms of around 15 per cent.

So far it appears that the energy shortage has had no effect on the situation. Union leaders

are demanding compensation for inflation, currently running at 6.5 per cent. a year, and for the fact that they showed restraint last year when the Ruhr steel men settled for 8.5 per cent. and other industries for not a great deal more.

The chief negotiator for the employers in the steel negotiations this time said afterwards: "We have jumped over our own shadow, for we do not know whether in 1974 the world will be still in order." But evidently the employers preferred to settle rather than risk a strike.

The agreement is a compromise between the union's demand of 15 per cent. for one year and the employers' original alternative offers: 11 per cent. plus more fringe benefits for a year, or a 9.9 per cent. increase without fringe benefits to run for only nine months.

## Chemicals industry investment falls by 16% in W. Germany

BY RAY DAFTER

VESTMENT in the West German chemicals industry this year has fallen by 16 per cent. compared with 1972, confirming a general trend throughout the year.

The total value of projects—excluding those completed and lined—was \$887.4m. as against \$1,056.9m. last year, according to the latest German projects survey published by Chemical Age International.

The decline follows a 5.7 per cent. drop in investment last year, based on 153 listed company projects, the results are in line with other European countries. Similar surveys have found significant declines in investment in the effects of inflation.

(The U.K. survey, published last month, recorded a fall of

24.5 per cent. for instance.) The German statistics show that the number of listed projects has decreased from 205 last year to 153 in 1973, while each project is costing on average some \$600,000 more at \$3.9m. While the number of projects in hand remains about the same at 100, the total value is up from \$550.5m. to \$887.4m. The value of planned projects (\$35.6m.) represents a 57.4 per cent. drop on a product basis, the survey shows that only the petrol refineries and synthetic rubber sectors increased investment.

Texaco is this year's biggest spender, investing around \$104m.—some 7.7 per cent. up on last year. The company has three major sites where projects are taking place: Karlsruhe in Baden-Württemberg, Schwab in Bavaria

and Heide in North Saxony. Dow is second, with \$93m. followed by Mobil (\$89.5m.), Huls (\$80.8m.) and Veba Chemie (\$78.1m.). Shell, in sixth place, is investing \$64m., a 44.1 per cent. increase—a jump reflecting its refinery expansion at Dodorf in North Saxony.

Baden-Württemberg in the south is the only area of growth, with investment increased by almost 60 per cent. to \$67m. North Rhine-Westphalia district remains the highest investment area, attracting some \$405m. (\$487m.).

While the top contractor is still Lurgi, with \$182.5m. worth of business, the biggest growth is shown by CTIP with a 289 per cent. increase. Its \$44.3m. worth of contracts has lifted it from seventh to second place in the league table of major contractors.

GERMAN CHEMICAL AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES INVESTMENT					
	All projects		Projects in hand		
	1973 Survey	1972 Survey	1973 Survey	1972 Survey	
	No.	£m.	No.	£m.	
Petroleum	37	440.7	25	336.2	
Heavy organics	41	135.5	59	239.4	
Plastics, resins	28	119.5	34	141.0	
Fibres, man-made	4	27.1	11	74.7	
Rubber, synthetic	6	24.3	6	16.1	
Pharmaceuticals	5	15.0	8	16.9	
Industrial gases	5	12.9	19	74.2	
Organics	6	7.2	17	51.1	
Fertilisers	3	3.1	4	4.4	
Inorganic	18	102.6	22	102.9	
Other	153	887.4	205	1,056.9	

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### INCREASE OF CAPITAL

At its meeting held on November 16th, 1973, the Board of Directors decided to issue 20,000 new shares of unchanged value, i.e. US\$100 each, thus increasing the issued capital from US\$6 to US\$8 millions.

These shares will be entitled to any dividend declared and paid as from January 1st, 1974. They are offered to existing shareholders at a price of US\$165 in the proportion

one new share for three shares held and must delivery of coupon No. 4.

Expenses connected with this issue will be borne by the company.

Subscriptions will be received by the following banks which act as the registrars of the issue: Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas (Suisse) S.A., Geneva and its branches in Zurich and Lugano; Banque du Rhône S.A., Geneva.

Subscription Rights will be exercisable by shareholders from November 10th until December 15th, 1973, settlement to be effected by December 21st, 1973. The new share certificates in coupon No. 6 and following attached will be available as soon as possible after that date.

The Board of Directors.

## EAST GERMANS BOOSTING CONSUMER GOODS

By Leslie Collett

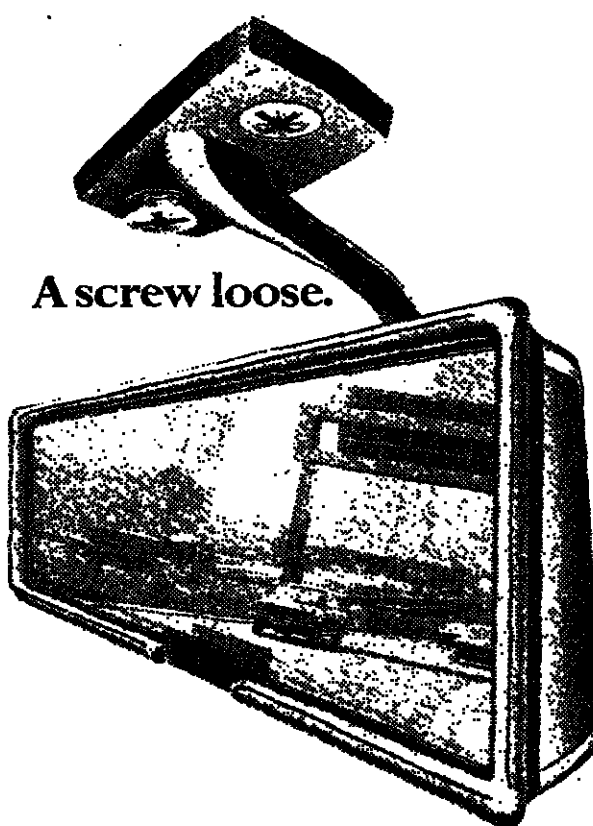
BERLIN, Nov. 28.

EAST GERMANY'S industrial investments show a distinct trend this year toward greatly increased consumer goods production. The German Institute of Economic Research in West Berlin notes in its latest survey of the East German economy that a 63 per cent. rise this year in East Germany's light industry output is likely to be fulfilled.

Last year investments in the East German consumer goods industries made up 10 per cent. of total industrial investments far below that of neighbouring West Germany. The percentage of investments devoted to services was one third that of West Germany's, while domestic commerce and housing construction made up roughly half the West German level.

East Germany's brown-coal-based energy production, which underwent widespread power shortages in the harsh winters of 1969 and 1970, is being favoured with high investments.

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## THE OIL SITUATION IN BRITAIN

## Threat to small hauliers

BY PAUL ELLMAN

OWING SHORTAGES of haulier, the National Freight Corporation, said it was experiencing "only minor difficulties" but its vehicles rely almost completely on fuel from its own depots.

A warning that the shortages could drive smaller operators out of business came from Mr. Alan Mansfield, managing director of the tanker division of Smith and Robinson (Hargreaves) Transport.

Mr. Mansfield said he was receiving calls almost every day from firms asking for enough fuel to run one or two lorries.

The oil companies reaffirmed

that they are strictly applying the Government's 10 per cent. cutback in deliveries and suggested that the latest victims might be hauliers who have previously not relied on major companies.

These hauliers were previously buying their diesel fuel for tanks in their own depots on the spot market, taking it from whoever was offering the lowest price.

With the drying up of supplies on this market following the disappearance of surpluses passing through Rotterdam, large numbers of hauliers are reported to have turned to major oil com-

panies in recent weeks.

The companies, however, are declining to take on new customers at present, and this is said to be driving a number of hauliers to garages already faced with supply problems.

The Department of the Environment confirmed that operators with more than five commercial vehicles will need to produce only log books to collect rationing coupons.

This follows complaints that deliveries could be delayed if vehicles were put off the road while tax discs were used to obtain coupons.

## Driving instructors 'panic stricken'

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER

PRESSURE group which has been put out of business overnight, it has taken them a long time to recover.

The group, which is waiting for a reply from the DTI, may also seek compensation for loss of earnings if tests are banned and the fuel shortage is prolonged. Several members are pressing for some kind of militant action if their requests are not accepted—such as resigning from the register of approved instructors or boycotting certain test centres.

Instructors are also worried that, as at the time of Suez,

learner-drivers will be allowed to drive unaccompanied.

Mr. Page estimated that an instructor in a rural area might cover 800 or 1,000 miles a week in the course of 45 hours' tuition, including picking up learners where there was no public transport. By cutting his hours to 40 a week and working hard, an instructor might get by on 20 gallons of petrol a week.

Last time, instructors found that they could only work for three days before their ration ran out.

About 80 per cent. of instructors are self-employed and there are some 1,100 employed by the British School of Motoring. The self-employed men are reckoned to earn £39 a week on average.

Some 2m. driving tests are taken every year and there are about 1m. in the pipeline at the moment.

It is not clear whether driving instructors would qualify for any special petrol allocation under the provisions outlined by the Minister in the Commons on Monday. There are two categories of ration for businesses—one for "essential business use" and one for "priority drivers," such as doctors.

What worries Mr. Page's group is that, far from making a special allowance, the Government would see cancellation of driving tests—and possibly instruction—as a convenient way of saving fuel.



Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabian Minister for Oil (right), arriving yesterday at his London hotel. He is due to meet Mr. Heath to-day.

## Cutbacks 'could last for some years'

BY MICHAEL CASSELL

BRITAIN WOULD have to come to terms with the fact that the use of the "oil weapon" could become a feature of industrial life for some years to come, Mr. Campbell Adamson, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, warned yesterday.

Mr. Adamson told a CBI meeting in Nottingham that many things had happened recently to shake the confidence of even the most optimistic—depressing trade figures, record interest rates, oil shortages and threats to other energy supplies.

To treat these difficulties lightly he said, would be ridiculous but it would be equally wrong to draw back from the high level of investment that British industry was now embarking upon.

The longer-term prospects for the U.K. were still good, he emphasised. Order books were full and the opportunities to export had never been greater.

Mr. Adamson pointed out that energy resources in this country were at least as good as those of its European competitors and better than some other nations.

However, he stressed that present problems should not be minimised. The most worrying aspect of the present situation concerned oil supplies, linked to the rate of inflation.

It had to be accepted, he said, that the deliberate curtailment

of fuel supplies for political reasons, could be invoked for some time to come but if this action encouraged the sparing use of oil, some good could come of it.

"In the short term we shall have to brace ourselves for some pretty unpleasant monthly trade figures and the improvement in our balance of payments which we forecast next year has almost certainly been delayed for some months," he added.

"This makes it all the more important to do those things which lie in our power as managers to make sure that overseas holders of sterling do not lose confidence in our ability to fight our way out of our present difficulties."

On the question of inflation, Mr. Adamson said that the immense pressure on raw materials and world food supplies which had led to the steady deterioration of the country's terms of trade had been made worse because all the developed nations were at the same time operating at high levels of output.

"The oil crisis will certainly have the effect of lowering this growth and some of the pressures will be removed," he declared. "This should help not only our rate of inflation, so largely induced by these world prices, but our balance of payments as well."

## How freight market will be affected

BY JAMES McDONALD, SHIPPING CORRESPONDENT

SLOW-DOWN in shipping war and the impositions of cutbacks caused by the oil cut-

will be reflected in the freight market, says H. P. Drewry (Shipping Consultants), in its report.

adds, however, that "a more lamental effect on the freight ket could be that corrective in against inflation more or simultaneously by a number important industrial countries, bring a spreading and cumulative deflationary effect capable of setting back world trade, production and employment."

re report argues that this ation may arise "because experience of the past five s indicates that policy rs have consistently under- nated the buoyancy of and, and therefore may over-

discusses the effect on crude reduction in the Middle East North Africa of the recent

## CRUDE OIL OUTPUT &amp; PIPELINE THROUGHPUTS\*

(m. tons per annum)			
	September	October	November
Median	112	104	84
Median	57	46	38
Median	25	8	12
Median (N. Iraq)	35	7	15
Median (N. Iraq)	24	28	35
Median	5	2	—
Median	252	195	184
Median	252	252	252
Median	—	57	68
Median	68	65	51
Median	40	40	40
Median	159	146	119
Median	29	28	22
Median	29	28	22
Median	386	370	296
Median	44	42	33
Median	755	719	583
Median	755	771	784
Median	—	52	203

\*Estimated production for October and November allows for of production cut-backs and selective destination embargoes, assumes there will be no settlement in November, and that export does will not be considered part of production cut-backs. Includes planned Saudi Arabian production increases and Kuwait production allowable.

## SNP wants bigger share in North Sea

CHRIS SAUR, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

EDINBURGH, Nov. 28.

Scottish National Party, from its by-election in Glasgow Govan, need to-day it would put on the Government and industry to give greater access to Scottish labour and companies in North Sea.

ing in Glasgow, Mr. Wilson, the SNP's senior spokesman, said that the cap-

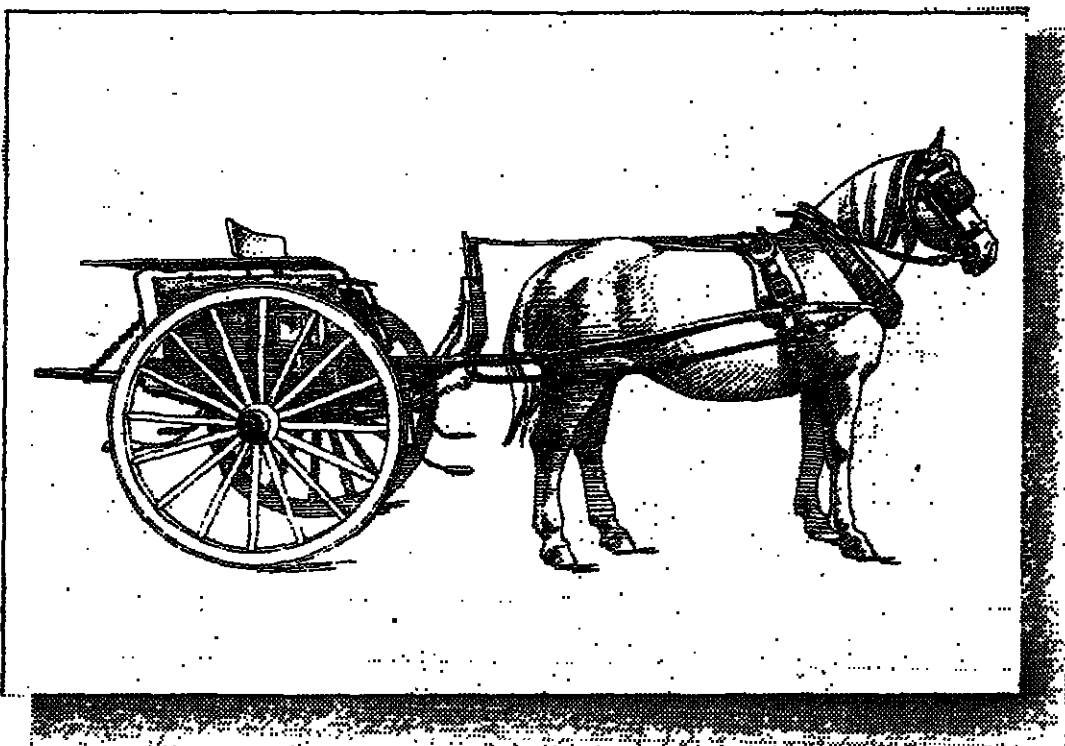
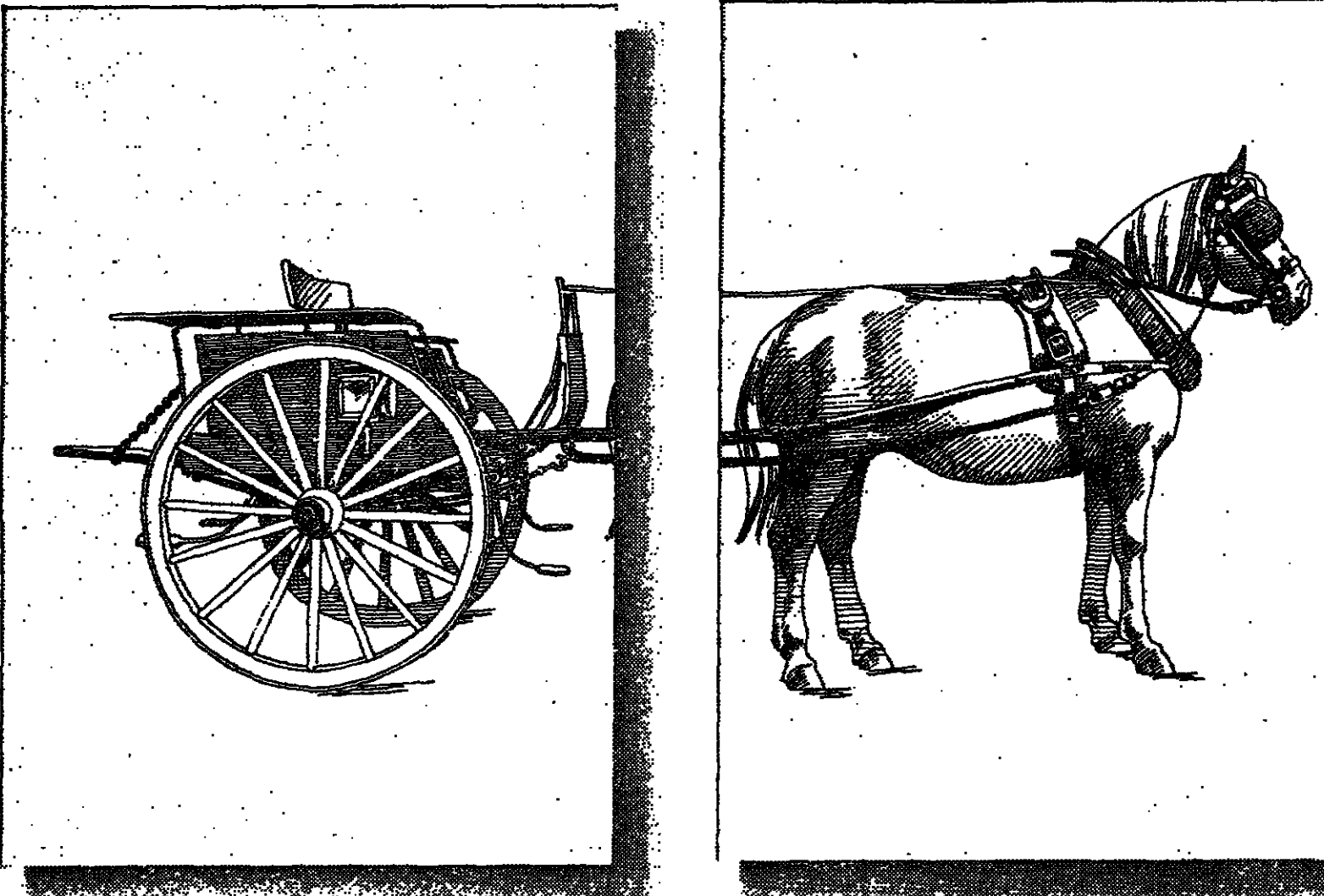
Govan would make the SNP more keen to Scottish public opinion, nation being collected by on contracts, wage rates, conditions and land ion, shows that Scotland's unfairly exploited," he

Wilson explained that the North Sea exploitation by the party closely ed those which had been ally negotiated by the an Government for its

ensured the use of on labour and resources, luded the right of the buy into between 40 and cent. of successful oil-

companies were used to such political terms. n oil rig supply vessels by the U.S. flag and had American crews: Alaska regulation provided for ce to be given to local offshore Portuguese oil- re subject to similar artribution rights as Norway.

oil companies should realistic," he added, "we should know that if they interest we the programme safeguard their profits and their right to Scottish oil, they should nuster the new technology.



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## 'No Arab ban' on EEC oil movement

THE ARABS had not in any way sought to impose a ban on movement of oil between European Community countries, Mr. John Davies, Minister for Europe, declared.

Replying to Mr. Peter Rost (Lab., Derbyshire SE), he said there were provisions within the EEC Treaty which would make such a ban incorrect within the framework of the Community. The Arab action had been in relation to supplies from them to Holland.

Replying to Mr. Ivor Richard, an Opposition Front Bench spokesman, Mr. Davies agreed that no demand had been made by the oil-producing countries that European countries should cut down exports to Holland.

The latest proposals for a European energy policy were made by the European Commission in August.

## Companies

Mr. Richard: "Would you confirm that it is open to the Common Market countries to increase the level of oil exports to Holland, and that Arab representatives who are in Europe at the moment have not sought to remove that right?"

Mr. Davies replied that the movements of products were matters for companies and industries involved, and not the responsibility of countries.

Mr. Douglas-Home, Foreign Secretary, was accused in angry exchanges of "questioning the loyalty and steadfastness" of Mr. Gerald Kaufman (Lab., Ardwick).

Mr. Kaufman had urged Sir Alec to "go to Holland to tell the citizens of that loyal and steadfast ally how you reconcile British membership of the EEC with the oil blockade Britain is carrying out against Holland."

Uproar broke out with angry shouts from Labour MPs as Sir Alec retorted: "The words 'loyalty' and 'steadfastness' come very well from you."

After further points of order Sir Alec said: "I did not mean to question his loyalty. If he interpreted it that way I will withdraw it."

## Human rights post

Mr. Victor Feather, the former TUC General Secretary, has been appointed chairman of the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights. Mr. William Whitelaw, Northern Ireland Secretary, announced in a written reply.

## 'RIGHT COURSE IS TO IMPROVE NETWORK'

# Peyton chides Labour for believing rail cut rumours

BY JOHN HUNT

THE GOVERNMENT statement on the future of British Rail, with promises of increased investment and retention of the present network, was greeted by the Opposition in the Commons with a "remarkable reversal" of Conservative policy.

It was certainly very different to the line being taken a couple of years ago by Government Ministers. Mr. Tom Bradley, Labour's transport spokesman, said:



Mr. John Peyton

He also pointed out that the investment programme was a far cry from what British Rail had originally asked for. The Railways Board had sought £1,800m. as part of a nine-year programme.

The Minister also emphasised that there would be a switch of resources within the transport sector mainly away from urban roads and on to the railways.

But Mr. Bradley, who is president of one of the rail unions, the Transport and General Workers' Association, remained sceptical. No doubt the Government conversion was due to the pressure of public opinion, he declared.

A long-term programme, possibly of 10 years, was needed to instil confidence. He asked for more information about investment programmes and said the railways would not be able to service the interest on a loan without running huge deficits.

Mr. Peyton assured him that he was very conscious of the need for the railways to see as far ahead as possible. The five-year investment programme would roll on year by year as a continuous process.

The question of financial support would be dealt with in the Bill which would be presented before Christmas. He told the House that investment figures included finance for the Channel Tunnel. In 1976/77 this would be £17m. and in 1977/78 £24m.

A jarring note from the Conservatives was struck by Mr. Jack Bruce-Gardyne (South Angus) who suspiciously asked what increase in public expenditure would be entailed.

The Minister confidently assured him there would be none at all. To another questioner who wanted to know where the money would come from, Mr. Peyton said the railways would continue to have full access to the national loan fund.

As the Minister observed, the rail problem had been one that successive Governments had attempted to deal with—none of them with total success.

## Efficient

Mr. Peyton said the Government's broad acceptance of the Railways Board strategy would mean substantially higher investment in four key areas.

"Fast Inter-City services will be improved, beginning with the introduction of the High Speed Diesel Train on the London-Bristol-South Wales route. The Board will also press on with the development of the Advanced Passenger Train, which is ahead of comparable systems elsewhere.

"For the commuter, improvements will include electrification of some suburban services, and there will be new rolling stock, better interchanges and modernised passenger terminals."

Rail freight and parcels services would be rationalised and made more efficient with computer-controlled wagon movement and high-capacity wagons to give faster turn-round times and greater flexibility.

"The Government and the Board are seeking to identify suitable freight traffic which could be attracted from road to rail. I am accordingly approaching 100 of the largest firms, in consultation with the Freight Transport Association.

"Increased investment in track and signalling on the key parts

of the system will provide even higher standards of safety and efficiency, at the same time reducing operating costs."

The Government's proposals would mean a continuing programme of work both for the railway workshops and for manufacturing industry over a period of years. They would enable all concerned with the railways industry to plan ahead more realistically than in the past.

The Government believe that the policies they propose are necessary to achieve an adequately equipped industry.

"They will expect all engaged in it to ensure that the opportunities offered by this increased investment and by the high speed developments in particular, are exploited to the full."

## Juggernauts

Str. Richard Thompson (C. Croydon S) asked if the plans for improving the railway system would include a positive freight policy to encourage heavy freight on the roads, where it was so unwelcome, to the rails.

# Mrs. Thatcher concedes teachers' pensions claim

BY PHILIP RAWSTORNE

MRS. MARGARET THATCHER, until the retiring age of 60 should be reckonable as to half for pension purposes.

After resisting a united campaign by the 16 teachers' unions over the past four months, Mrs. Thatcher told the Commons that she was willing to accept in principle a labour motion calling for reduction of the contribution to 6 per cent.

Subject to further talks and the approval of the Pay Board, the concession would cost local authorities £7m. a year but save individual teachers between £10-£15.

## Warning

Admitting that teachers were at present "harbouring a sense of grievance," Mrs. Thatcher agreed to work out a scheme which would give pension credit to teachers for war service.

There were bound to be practical difficulties in reopening this question, she said. An element of "rough justice" was inevitable but it should be possible to find a formula that would cover the majority of teachers affected.

Talks would begin on the basis that service by a person who entered the profession immediately after the war and who had given continuous service

"Do you realise that public sentiment against juggernaut lorries has reached the pitch that if you do not do this, you will be compelled to confine lorries to particular trunk routes?"

"Once you do that, you will remove the argument for using lorries at all, because you will have destroyed their flexibility."

Mr. Peyton: "It is beyond my power to change things to the effect that every factory, every warehouse, every farm and the rest, is suddenly provided with a railhead."

"The vast majority of freight hauls in this country are comparatively short. I know you dislike the lorry very much, but they should remind themselves of their great dependence on it."

The Government's statement on British Rail was welcomed in the Lords by Lord Phipps (Lab.) as "the most progressive which has been made on railways for some considerable time."

It was a complete breakaway from the "Marples and Bechingham regime."

A Private Member's Bill "to remove the element of retrospectivity in the Immigration Act 1971" was introduced in the Lords by Lord Avebury (L.), and formally read a first time.

## Whitelaw names new Ulster Ombudsman

MR. STEPHEN MCGONAGLE is to be Northern Ireland Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration and Northern Ireland Commissioner for Complaints from January 1.

This was announced in a Commons written reply by Mr. William Whitelaw, Northern Ireland Secretary.

Mr. McGonagle, a leading trade union official from Londonderry, has served on a number of public bodies, including the Londonderry Development Commission.

The two offices Mr. McGonagle is taking over are held by Dr. John M. Bean, who reaches retirement age next month.

A call for an emergency Commons debate on the violence in the past few days in Northern Ireland was resisted by the Speaker, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd.

The request came from Mr. Stanley McMaster (UU, Belfast E.), who claimed that there had been a renewed campaign of assassinations, bombings and hijackings.

Mr. Roy Hattersley, the Labour spokesman, said that the announcement should help to stabilise teachers' morale and their confidence in the Government and the local authority employers.

"Despite the depth of bitterness and insecurity, I hope today may be the beginning of a new feeling of confidence that society is beginning to recognise their importance and understand their crucial role," he said.

The teachers' campaign for the revision of their pension scheme had been "a matter of principle and respect" and had been pursued with a passion totally out of proportion to their possible financial gain.

If the Government had conceded their case four months ago, "a great deal of ill feeling and disruption" would have been avoided.

Mr. Bernard Wakefield, assistant General Secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters, said: "Mrs. Thatcher has won her battle with the Treasury."

"It is a victory for the NAS which has fought the superannuation battle since May, 1972. As early as June, 1973, Mrs. Thatcher expressed sympathy with the NAS case and promised to review the situation. The persistence of the NAS is now rewarded."

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Mr. Cunningham had pointed out that the figure given of a 6 per cent. holding in FNFC by Crown Agents was lower than the one previously quoted by a Minister in the House.

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# TUC planning new moves against registered unions

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, LABOUR EDITOR

FRESH MOVES to hit at the effectiveness of unions expelled from the TUC for registering under the Industrial Relations Act, will be taken by the TUC following a meeting of its General Council yesterday.

They involve all TUC unions being advised to try to have the expelled unions thrown off joint bodies such as negotiating councils and committees, industry training Boards, wages councils and federations.

If this advice were to be carried out by TUC unions it could disrupt established industrial relations machinery and practices in industries such as government and health services, and the merchant navy.

This is because the 19 unions expelled from the TUC as a result of the non-registration include the National and General Unions of Textile Workers, the National Union of Health Service Employees, the National Union of Sea Fishermen, and others.

It is not only the situation of these fairly large unions which could cause problems. Smaller ones also are linked to TUC unions in various ways. TUC unions in many industries have lost the protection of government and health services, and are being shunned by the merchant navy.

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# Drive for £25 a week minimum stepped up

BY OUR LABOUR EDITOR

THE TUC yesterday stepped up its campaign to help the low-paid by calling on the Government to consider supporting a minimum wage target of £25 a week and give an undertaking to pay this to low-paid public sector workers.

This development, forecast in the Financial Times last Friday, constitutes the TUC's formal response to a Government paper on a low pay table by the Prime Minister during his talks with the TUC before the Stage Three pay code was published.

The union's reply, approved by the TUC general council at its monthly meeting yesterday, will be sent to Mr. Maurice Macmillan, Secretary for Employment. It points out what the TUC regards as the various means at the Government's disposal to improve the lot of the low-paid.

In addition to the £25 target—a figure which, it is thought, might be raised by some £2 to £3 a week within a few months—the TUC is also calling for a "framework within which low pay problems can be tackled by taking direct action on economic development and structural change."

This means using machinery such as the industry economic development committees set up by the National Economic Development Council to boost productivity.

Restrictions impeding activity in the TUC along with change wages councils.

Announcing this yesterday, Len Murray, TUC general secretary, said the TUC did not want the Government to do a single month's business. This was in reply to a special Low Pay Board.

The Government instead, Mr. Murray, should provide a framework within which low pay problems could be tackled taking direct action on economic development and structural change.

A series of TUC national pensions are being held on December 31, 1973, including Labour Party is holding its national pensions in London on December 4.

THE AMERICAN-controlled Singer Company, of Clydebank, will lay off 4,000 manual workers to-day and to-morrow, bringing production at the factory to a standstill, as a result of a strike by 900 key craftsmen, electricians, fitters, engineers and ancillary workers.

The key personnel had given notice of a week's notice of strike action unless the company met demands for a substantial bonus, but shop stewards were told by the management that nothing could be done under the American home market.

A company spokesman said that it was prevented by Government's Stage Three Code from paying further increases because in July it gave a 7 per cent. increase in pay of a week, two extra days and improved pensions.

The Singer Company, headquartered in New York, a Scottish labour force of 1,000, exports 90 per cent. of its output, domestic and export, sewing machines, mainly to the American home market.

There was discontent among workers at differences in the Board level in the company, the report states that there is a need and the CIR found that to improve knowledge and understanding of industrial relations at all lower levels of management—particularly among those line managers who have been in the discussions.

The CIR found a serious supplier of valve guides in the company of tappets to the motor industry, and effective suffered a spate of industrial disputes, mainly over wages through which industrial relations could be conducted—in August last year the CIR found the lack of any joint agreement on machinery on which all manual unions were represented.

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# Whitehall urged to lead in new deal for cleaners

THE GOVERNMENT, as the largest single employer of office cleaners in the country, is being urged to give the lead in offering adequate pay and conditions to the cleaning staff of its own buildings.

In a memorandum submitted through the Department of Employment, the Contract Cleaning and Maintenance Association and the joint trade union committee for Contract Cleaning staff, urged the Government to lead in offering adequate pay and conditions to the cleaning staff of its own buildings.

The memorandum states that the Government is in a unique position to lead in offering adequate pay and conditions to the cleaning staff of its own buildings.

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The memorandum states that



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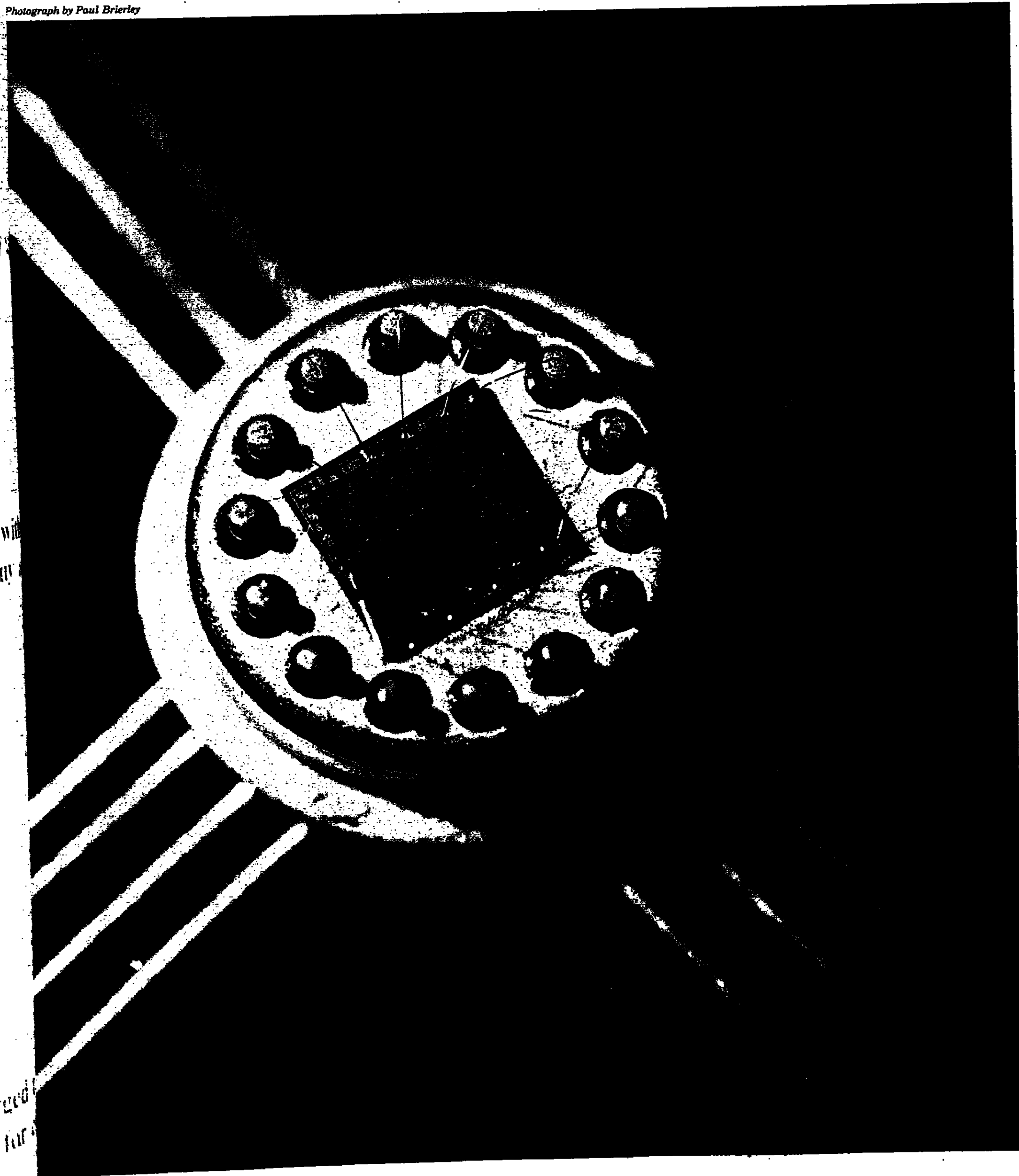
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# Profit from Pye systems

Photograph by Paul Brierley



## The mostest

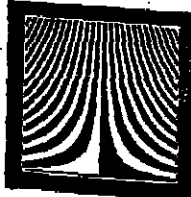
24,000 transistors on a single memory chip: over 2 million lines in an area less than a quarter of an inch square: this is metallised oxide semiconductor technology (MOST) - large scale integrated circuit techniques applied to telephone systems by Pye TMC Limited. This Pye company is a world leader in MOST, which has dramatically reduced costs and made possible a whole new range of telephone facilities.

\*Pye brings to every system project an overall capability that is unique - in technical scope and in the quality of project management.



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# The Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

## RADIO AND TELEVISION

### Rank's translations into French

NEW GROUND has been broken by Rank Video Laboratory in its preparation of the Incorporated Television Company's eight part serialisation of "The Strauss Family" for French television. It involved the linking of videotape and film technicians who worked together to transfer the English language version of the colour series into French. The work was undertaken at Rank's film complex at Film House, Wardour Street, London.

Shot originally on two-inch tape with combined picture and

English sound track, the show presented Rank technicians with two major tasks: tape-to-tape transfer for the overseas version, and marrying this in synchronisation to a French 16mm film magnetic sound track on a bank of Ampex AVR-1 videotape recorders.

Front titles, shot on film, were transferred to two-inch tape on a Rank Cintel flying-spot scanner and joined to the French tape background sound. Then came the provision of the end titles, which required the mixing of the original unedited back-

ground action with film for final transfer to videotape. Yet another task was the masking out of English commercial breaks, necessitating careful editing of both video and sound tracks.

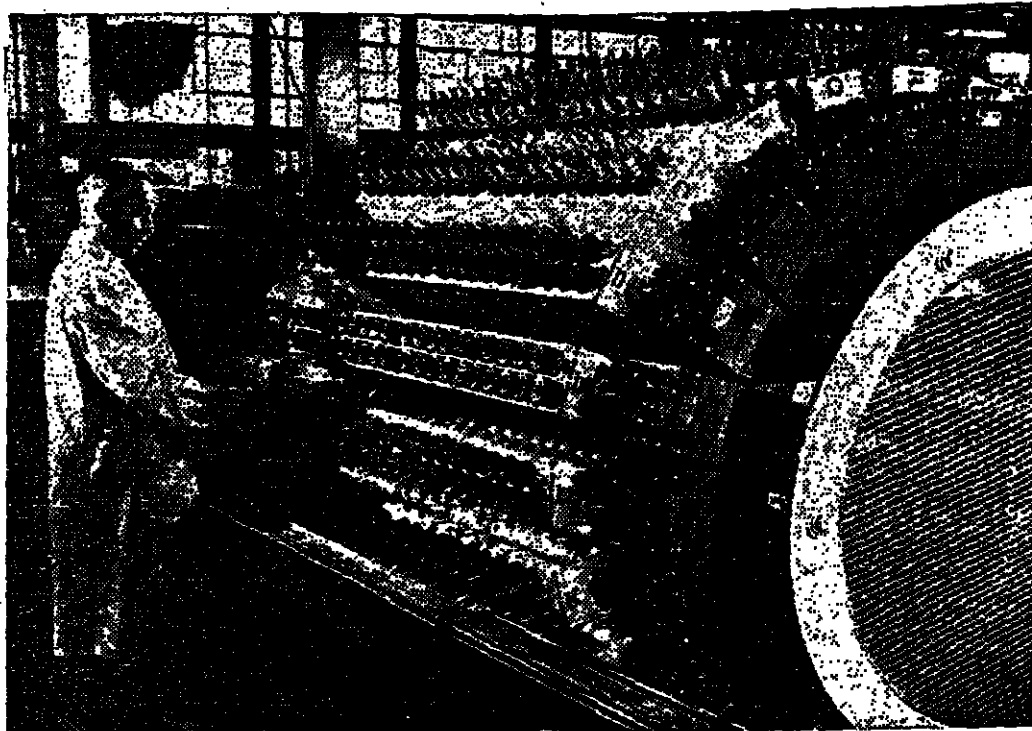
The pooling of Rank's film and audio know-how, in association with ITC for ORTF in Paris, provides new export potential for the increased sale of British television programmes in any foreign language version.

ITC believes many more videotape programmes can be made available for foreign language

markets. Though the system is complex, it is extremely precise and economically viable.

Rank Film Laboratories has sold light entertainment shows in tape abroad, but is the first U.K. video facility to have been entrusted with such a big job.

Rank Video broke new ground inasmuch as it combined tape and film, together with French dubbing, to produce a series which French audiences, when they see it next January, can take to have been shot originally for themselves.



Despite the advance of solid-state components into every area of the electronics industry there still is a heavy world demand for valves of all kinds. Mullard's Blackburn plant turns out about 27m. in 40 types each year.

Here, receiving valves are being aged to stabilise their emission characteristics on a rotary screening machine. About 50 per cent of the valves made at Blackburn go to destinations in Europe and the U.S.

**LEONARD FAIRCLOUGH**  
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## METALWORKING

### Fillip for U.K. idea on bearings

GLACIER Metal Company, member of the Associated Engineering Group—and Bethlehem Steel Corporation have agreed to co-operate on a ship-birth basis on the design and manufacture of the British company's Glacier-Herbert withdrawable sterngear.

Bethlehem Steel will manufacture the Glacier-Herbert sterngear, which will be marketed in the U.S. by the Glacier Metal Company with full back-up support from the shipbuilding department of its American partner and its U.S. agencies.

Bethlehem Steel, one of the largest steel companies in the world, builds and repairs ships in its own yards and also operates as a ship owner. The agreement is important for the British company's revolutionary sterngear, which is now likely to be in general use by the world's shipyards within the next decade.

Glacier-Herbert sterngear is important to operators because both the bearing and the seal which keep the sea water out and the lubricating oil in the bearing can be removed and replaced from within the vessel, so costly dry docking is obviated.

This work can be done with the vessel at normal trim and at any draught, and it takes only about eight hours. The outcome can be savings of many tens of thousands of pounds on dry docking and repair costs throughout the life of a vessel, as compared with one fitted with conventional sterngear.

## PLASTICS

### Beating static

JAMES HALSTEAD has developed what is claimed to be the first commercially available static-conductive grade of vinyl flooring designed for computer clean rooms.

Available in tile form, 612 x 612 mm nominal, this flooring, when properly applied to modular floors of the type usually found in computer installations, will, it is claimed, eliminate the problems of static shocks to personnel and the computer.

Full details may be obtained from James Halstead, P.O. Box 3, Radcliffe New Road, Whitefield, Manchester M25 7NR.

By agreement between the Financial Times and the BBC, information from The Technical Page is available for use by Corporation's External Services as source material for its overseas broadcasts.

## DATA PROCESSING

### Teleprinter successor claimed

AN EQUIPMENT now being made available by Cable and Wireless and manufactured by Megadata Computer and Communications Corporation of New York is stated by the British organisation to be "the best direct replacement for electro-mechanical terminals on all communication networks."

The equipment is Megadata's Mac-Net "intelligent" visual display unit terminal capable of handling traffic speeds from 50 to 9,600 bauds, compatible with all existing equipment and capable of operation by typists instead of specialised telegraph operators. The terminal is being shown for the first time in the U.K. at an Institute of Administrative Management conference in Coventry this week.

C. and W. sees the terminal as the logical successor to the teleprinter and believes that it will be able to cope with the growth of private networks for the next 30 years.

Cable and Wireless is to lease the equipment and maintain it and also has plans to introduce it into the Far East as well as Europe. Units are already being operated in the U.S. and Caribbean.

Mac-Net is a fully programmable, intelligent CRT data terminal with a full scale central

processing unit (CPU), a 4096 word expandable memory, operator's keyboard and an 80 sq. in. viewing area which can show 30 lines of 60 characters each. A 7 x 8 dot matrix is used for distinct character formation. The memory is MOS (metal oxide silicon semiconductor integrated circuits).

The equipment has full data editing via cursor control which means that errors can be eradicated before the messages are sent thus making better use of the computer at the other end of the line. The terminal is said to be able to communicate with "practically any sophisticated computer system and can connect exactly to the software round rules already existing with the system." Thus Mac-Net does not become obsolete as the system grows.

The equipment can be reprogrammed for any code or line discipline so that it does not have to be changed, or made redundant when making changes of code, speed or line arrangements.

Outgoings and incoming information can be printed out on an associated printer that is 80 per cent solid state and capable of 10, 30 or 70 ch/s.

According to Cable and Wireless, the terminal could make a major contribution to the efficiency and viability of corporate and government private communications systems.

In this way C. and W. joins with Exel in presenting the electronic equipment which must, sooner or later, supersede the now outdated electromechanical units used all over the world.

up to 9,600 bits per second. Data can similarly be read out on demand, also at speeds up to 9,600 bits/s quite independently of the input.

Information is handled sequentially and data can be read out while new data is being read in. The unit can be equipped with either TTL, telegraph or CCITT standard interfaces, to customer requirement.

A particular market area is expected to be in message switching systems.

The device is known as Con-store and uses metal oxide silicon (MOS) memory integrated circuits. With a storage capacity of up to 40,000 characters, the unit can accept asynchronous or synchronous data at any rate of

### Stores data for fast sending

A DIGITAL communications buffer store which can solve the problems of speed/mode conversion when interfacing low-speed terminals to high speed data communication systems has just been announced by Racal-Milgo of Boreham Road, Reading, Berks RG2 0SS.

The device is known as Con-store and uses metal oxide silicon (MOS) memory integrated circuits. With a storage capacity of up to 40,000 characters, the unit can accept asynchronous or synchronous data at any rate of

## TRANSPORT



A high accuracy drive system supplied and commissioned by Thoma Automation is being used at the British Hovercraft Corporation research establishment, Isle of Wight on a towing carriage for a model test tank.

The tank is used for various testing and design optimisation programmes for ships' hulls, hovercraft, sea anchors etc. A model constructed to scale, is towed through the water at various set speeds in both calm water and predetermined wave configurations. The model's reactions are monitored and recorded. Modifications to the model are carried out where necessary and the test is repeated under identical conditions. Tests include measurement of resistance, behaviour in regular and irregular waves, self-propulsion work with propellers and manoeuvring. The personnel-carrying

carriage was designed by the experimental and electronic laboratories of British Hovercraft Corporation. The model is towed by the carriage along a 640 feet long tank. The carriage is pulled by a winch mounted adjacent to one end of the tank. Carriage speed is 0 to 50 ft/sec. Several requirements for the drive system were incorporated into the original design. First, the system had to be capable of providing high-speed stability under steady state conditions, and of meeting a specified dynamic performance under transient conditions. Secondly, accurate repeatability of speed settings over periods of up to several months was necessary to enable extensive test programmes to be carried out. Thirdly, hydrodynamic test data must be measured only after the towing carriage has reached the pre-set speed.

## PROCESSES

### Laundry is kinder to garments

IN THE laundering of overalls, smocks and uniforms in permanent press cotton-polyester fabrics a new approach by this Engineers of Kendal, Westmorland, incorporates a patented system of barrier impregnation but involves no mechanical agitation. It could double the life of garments if used to the exclusion of traditional washing methods.

With a single installation, a laundry will be able to process 240 garments in a van-to-van time of only one hour. Soiled garments are collected from the customer and returned to the delivery van laundered, retextured and dried on the same hours.

When achievement of the Birkdale automated laundry is the way this has integrated modern laundering and drying processes into a continuous conveyorized operation whilst introducing the protective treatment. This acts as a dirt barrier on the garments returned to the customer.

The plant, which can be installed in existing premises in an area measuring 40 feet by 25 feet, is push-button operated from a control console located at the side of the machine. It requires water, steam, compressed air and electrical service and the effluent can be discharged into the wash house drainage system. Designed with the need for water conservation in mind, it uses approximately one gallon per garment. This economy is the result of using fine sprays for rinsing and eliminating immersion processes.

It has been developed in conjunction with J. and F. Whiteley, Birkdale Laundry, Southampton, Lancashire, where a prototype has been exhaustively tested on garment rental contracts.

It is a prerequisite of the

### Keeps ports free from pollution

AT A TIME when most of the world's maritime nations are discussing more stringent anti-pollution measures, Wilson Walton International, and Elsan Sewage Systems, both British companies with international connections, have reached an agreement for the production and world-wide marketing of a specially designed Elsan mechanical/chemical sewage treatment system—for all classes of naval and merchant ship—from tugs and trawlers to the largest sizes of vessel.

This new joint project for ships follows development of a plant which offers the advantage of zero overboard discharge for periods of up to nine months and which meets all current IMCO and any environmental pollution regulations which may be put forward by maritime nations. The system has been patented world-wide.

The Wilson-Elsan venture expects to develop a market—already building up in the U.K. and Spain—for an initial output of 100 installations a year; the cost varies, of course, according to the size of ship but gross turnover is estimated at £500,000 for the first year and in due course will exceed some £1,000,000 per annum.

Wilson Walton operates from Pembroke House, 44 Wellesley Road, Croydon, Surrey.

## DIESEL GENERATING SETS

### 25-190 KVA models

Limited number of units available on short delivery

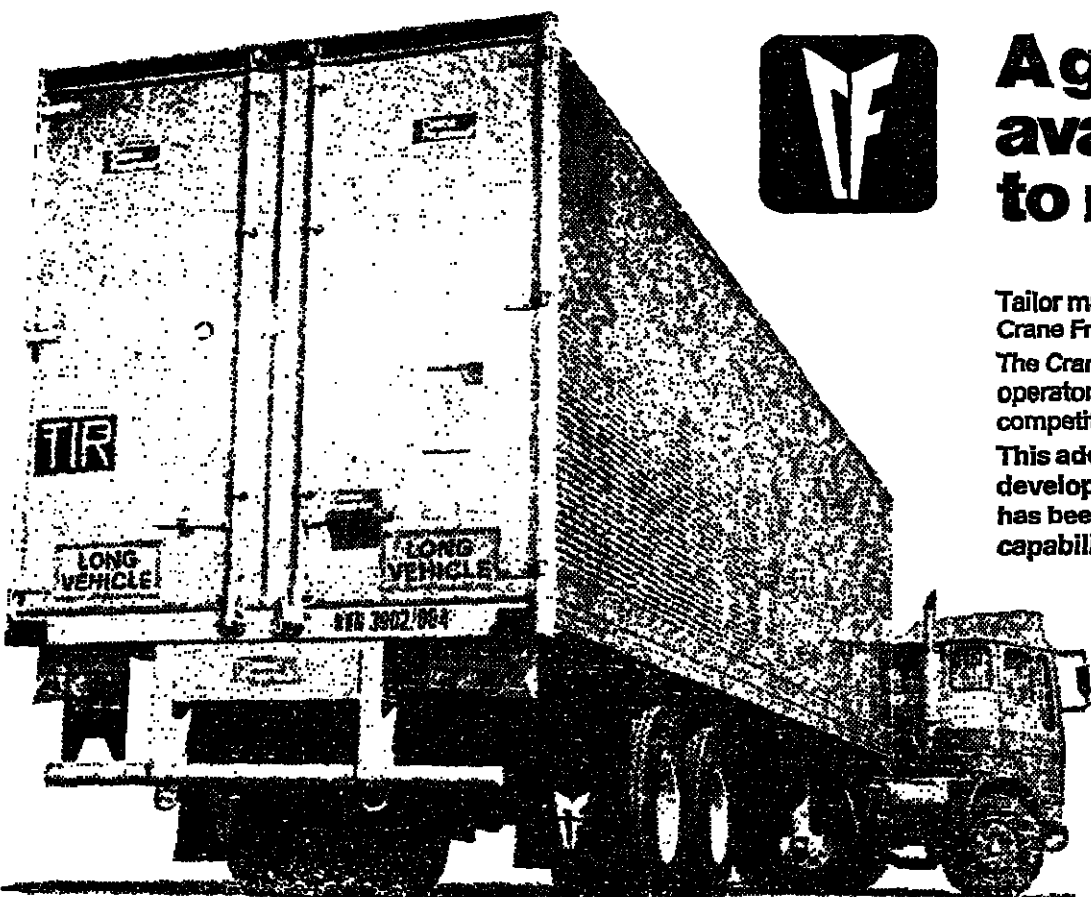
Contact the Marine & Industrial Engine Department at:

**Mercedes-Benz (Great Britain) Ltd.**

Katherine House, Dunstable St., Ampthill, Bedfordshire.

Tel: Ampthill (0525) 404212. Telex: 825459

# NEWS FROM THE VAN MARKET LEADERS



## A great new Vans range from Crane Fruehauf available NOW in a range of standard sizes to meet your pre-Christmas delivery bulge.

Tailor made for fleet operators, with increased access width, this new Crane Fruehauf range offers highly engineered vans of a standard design. The Crane Fruehauf Model 'F' is ideally suited to the needs of the big operator, but equally to the needs of all van operators looking for a competitively priced van and faster delivery.

This addition to the famous Crane Fruehauf Vanguard range of Vans, developed as a result of intensive market research into customer needs, has been made possible by a completely new flow-line Van production capability—the result of sustained demand for Crane Fruehauf Vans.

The Crane Fruehauf Group is dedicated to providing customers with the highest possible standards of service. The existing, highly successful range of Crane Fruehauf Vanguard Vans has now been complemented by this new Model 'F' Vans range in order to meet the needs of those customers, in the belief that the action taken will be of significant benefit to them all, and to new customers as production capacity expands further.

Telephone the Crane Fruehauf Hot Line 01-848 0225 or fill in coupon and post for full details.



Crane Fruehauf Trailers Ltd., Hayes Gate House, Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex. Telex: 262051. Please let me have immediate information on your

**Vans from stock NOW**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Position \_\_\_\_\_  
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Address \_\_\_\_\_



# Raising lorry weight limit would hardly affect size

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

**MON MARKET** proposals could raise the weight of British lorries need not significantly increase size, the Commons Select Committee on Nationalised Industries states in a report published yesterday.

The biggest lorries probably will be not more than 100 tons, and will carry longer than 100 feet of lorry. The maximum weight of lorries raised from 32 long tons to proposed EEC figure of 40 long tons.

## ulage group

is, the committee believes, not the generally accepted public debate on this important environmental issue to be based on inadequate information. The committee also finds that the research appears to have been authorised which would be those responsible for

making important decisions in this field to base such decisions on hard documented evidence. It was reported on its investigation into the National Freight Corporation, the State-owned haulage group which operates British Road Services, Pickfords, National Carriers, Tayforth, and many other companies.

The Corporation, it finds, has made "a remarkably good beginning since its inception in 1962." Its success comes from good management, excellent industrial relations, and the NFC's "sensible approach to the remit given to it in the Transport Act, 1962."

customers for carrying similar consignments.

On the structure of the NFC Board, the committee would like to see consideration given to the appointment of at least one other full-time member and also to the separation of the chairmanship and the job of chief executive, which are at present both held by Mr. Dan Pettit. But this aspect should be left over until a chairman is next appointed, the committee states.

## Small freight

The committee also recommends the development of joint operations between National Carriers and BRS Parcels and the setting up of a Government inquiry into the operation of all parcels services in the public sector. These include British Rail and the Post Office as well as the two main NFC parcels carriers.

In welcoming the committee's report, Mr. Pettit said in a statement yesterday that the NFC subscribed to the suggestion that barriers should be progressively reduced in the Corporation's parcels and small freight group. But he saw National Carriers and BRS Parcels as pursuing specific and distinct market roles. The field was large enough to accommodate both without great marketing rivalry or duplication of resources. Mr. Pettit said the Corporation's aim was to develop these companies to make the most of their respective opportunities.

Select Committee on Nationalised Industries. Second report, 1972-73. National Freight Corporation. HMSO, £2.50.



Mr. Lawrence Daly (left), general secretary of the NUM, and Mr. Joe Gormley, president, outside No. 10 Downing Street after yesterday's meeting with the Prime Minister.

# Avon £3m. medical works

BY PETER CARTWRIGHT, MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

**AVON MEDICALS**, the fastest-growing non-tyre interest of Avon Rubber, is building a £750,000 factory at Redditch, Worcs., to meet the rapidly growing U.K. and European demand for its products. This will supplement manufacturing facilities in Birmingham.

The market in sterile medical disposable equipment, particularly for blood transfusion, in which Avon Medicals claims 85 per cent. of the U.K. market, has been given a big stimulus by the decision to limit the length of use of this equipment on health grounds. This has pushed up

demand from 2m. to 3m. sets a year. The company has about a third share in the growing market for coil dialysers for treatment of kidney diseases. The 100,000 square feet factory, on a 12-acre site, will employ about 150, mainly women, when completed in the summer of 1975. It is expected to employ nearly 400 when fully operational.

Sir Edward Thompson, chairman of Redditch Development Corporation, welcomed the diversification of the industrial estate, which is now occupied by engineering.

At the beginning of the year Avon Medicals opened its first overseas selling subsidiary in Frankfurt. Similar operations in other countries are planned.

"In our particular field Britain has a leadership we intend to exploit," Mr. Doug Carter, Avon Medicals' managing director, declared. "In the past year exports have doubled and we intend to keep up this rate of growth."

In the financial year just ended the subsidiary contributed 6 per cent. of Avon Rubber's profit from a turnover of £1.3m. Collectively, Avon's non-tyre interests contribute 47 per cent. of profits.

# Labour to launch election campaign in New Year

BY JOHN WYLES, LABOUR REPORTER

**THE LABOUR PARTY** is to launch a campaign in the New Year to publicise the policies on up with a draft campaign strategy which it plans to fight the next election.

This early campaign of speeches and publicity was decided by the party's national executive yesterday. Labour leaders did not discuss last week-end's speeches by members of the "shadow" Cabinet which appeared to highlight policy differences, but an urgent need to present a united front on policy issues was clearly in many minds.

The basis of the campaign will be a statement of priorities to be drawn up at a joint meeting of the executive and the "shadow" Cabinet next month coupled with heavy emphasis on the party's call for a renegotiation of Common Market entry.

Much of the discussion at yesterday's executive was taken up with a draft campaign strategy drawn up by Labour Party staff. Priorities include an immediate increase in pension to £10 a week for single people and £16 for couples, an extension of public ownership, strict price control, reform of the tax system and profit-sharing for workers.

Several members of the executive are expected to submit additional proposals, dealing among other things with defence and women's rights in advance of next month's meeting with the "Shadow" Cabinet.

In the meantime it was decided yesterday that a joint meeting of the executive and the "shadow" Cabinet next month should be coupled with an inquest into Labour's poor performance in last month's bye-elections.

# Teesside £50m. plan backed

By Our Own Correspondent

**TEESSIDE** county borough council has now stepped in with support for the proposed development at Seal Sands, at the mouth of the Tees.

Last week Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority shelved an application for Parliamentary approval for the £50m. scheme for three oil tanker docks for 12 months on the grounds that environmental factors needed further detailed consideration.

Teesside has warned that for the economic good of the area the scheme should go ahead. In expressing support for the port's plan, which would create three berths for tankers up to 300,000 tons, the Labour-controlled Teesside council has weighed the environmental considerations against the need for new employment.

# J.K. developers active in a provincial France

BY PETER RIDDELL, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

**INCREASING** interest in French property developers in the main provincial areas of France is highlighted in a report just published by Jones Lang Wootton, the U.K. surveying firm which has an office in Paris since 1970.

The report points out that 21 firms are now being underwritten by British developers in which "would suggest that the market is well exploited." U.K. agents are now increasingly wary of Lille and one noted that approaching 2m. sq. feet is either under construction or planned in the city. Jones Lang states that it is "advisable to concentrate on the larger cities — for example, Marseilles, Aix-en-Provence and Lyon. It adds that risks involved are greater in the Paris region which he reduced by not underwriting large schemes and allowing longer than usual letting periods."

relation to France as a whole, the report estimates that sales carried out so far by British developers are worth £1.2m. Since 1968-70, the highest yields in the office market have fallen from between 7 per cent. and 11 per cent. to 5 per cent. and 9 per cent. and Jones Lang expects that with increasing pressures on external institutional investors, yields will continue to

districts of the Paris region have risen by about 5 per cent. in the past six months, rents in the central area, where controls have been particularly stiff, have increased at a much more rapid rate.

It points out that the maximum rental level even in the prime 8th arrondissement near the Avenue des Champs Elysees is Frs. 1,200 a square metre, but maintains that as the shortage of space in this area becomes more acute, rents will rise further, notably from mid-1974 onwards.

## Potential

Jones Lang believes that a likely new trend will be for more mixed residential and office schemes in parts of Central Paris. Residential plot ratios are now higher than office ratios in some districts and it is required, in certain areas, to replace any residential plot pulled down to make way for a new project.

In addition, the report draws particular attention to the potential of the proposed 232-acre Cité Financière area in Central Paris near the Bourse. According to present plans, about 70 per cent. of new space expected to be needed between now and 1980 by banking and insurance companies in the Paris region would be built there. Plot ratios for offices are expected to be higher than in the rest of Central Paris.

The total office floor space for which permits have been issued has steadily declined in the Paris region since 1971, but between 1971 and 1972 the floorspace authorised for construction and occupation by Governmental bodies and nationalised industry has doubled.

# Carpet boom over, lean years ahead are forecast

BY KEN GORTON

**ROOM** time such as 1972 and will not be seen again for years in the carpet industry, according to James Morrell and Associates, the London business consultants. Mr. Richard Hall, director, Mr. Richard Hall, in a study on carpets in the Industrial Forecast series that the end of a recession in the carpet industry will be dampening effect on carpet sales next year.

Indeed, he predicts that carpet sales to the domestic consumer, at constant prices, will show little or no growth until 1978. Exports, which have jumped from £14m. in 1967 to £41m. last year, should increase further in 1974, "but thereafter, economic restraints, particularly in Europe" will slow the rate of growth.

The bright spot is contract carpets. The rising cost of cleaning and maintaining office floors has encouraged sales, but tremendous potential remains. Mr. Hall believes sales will grow in this area from £75m. to £110m. over a five-year period, at constant prices.

Industrial Forecasts—Carpet, James Morrell and Associates, 1, Paternoster Row, St. Paul's, London, EC4P 4HP, £35.

# Ireland attracts U.K. investment

By Harold Bolter

**U.K. INVESTMENT** in the Irish Republic is expected to reach record levels this year, Mr. Justin Keating, the Irish Minister for Industry and Commerce, revealed in London yesterday.

Since the beginning of this year, the Republic's Industrial Development Authority has approved for grant assistance 16 industrial projects from the U.K., with a total fixed assets investment of over £40m. and potential for the employment of 3,000 workers at full production.

Negotiations have reached an advanced stage on a further 12 projects, having an investment potential of £35m. and projected jobs of 2,800.

According to Mr. Keating, who was in London to meet representatives of 160 U.K. companies, the IDA is now taking part in negotiations with several major organisations, including Thorn, which could lead to the location of some of the largest British projects ever to go to Ireland.

During the 1960s, the U.K. contributed around 25 per cent. of total overseas industrial investment in Ireland, but there was a marked decline in British investment in Ireland from 1970 until the end of last year. Largely as the result of the situation in Ulster the proportion contributed by Britain has been no more than 3 or 4 per cent.

This year, however, the IDA anticipates that at least 16,000 new jobs will be created by inward investment, and that 4,500 of them will be the result of capital expenditure by British companies.



# How to expand a store by shrinking it.

The narrower your aisles, the more you store. One of our clients switched from 2-ton counter-balanced trucks needing 12' 6" aisles to Lansing Bagnall reach trucks needing 8'.

One clear decision. It increased their storage capacity by a third, saved the cost of new building, avoided the upheaval of moving.

Another client, in the Home Counties, planned a 100,000 sq ft warehouse. Lansing Bagnall introduced them to turret trucks needing only 5' 6" aisles, considerably less than they'd realised, with the result that they built only 50,000 sq ft.

(Industrial building costs currently average around £5 sq ft, as you may know if you're thinking this way yourself.)

We've a stack of examples like these; but what matters is what Lansing Bagnall can actually do for you.

It will cost you nothing to find out. Use the coupon, or your phone, and one of our Sales Engineers will get in touch with you.

Let him look over your handling and storage methods. He'll be a well-trained and experienced man, thoroughly used to working out ways people can do things better, whether they use our trucks or not.

His job is our job; saving companies space, manpower, time and money.

We've overcome more handling problems than anybody else in Europe. And everything that that's taught us, he knows.

He can talk about rental and leasing, and rebuilt as well as new machines. He can tell you how our service organisation operates: over 400 men (twice the size of any other team) working out of 14 sensibly placed depots, usually in radio-controlled vans so they can react quickly when needed.

His advice is free of charge or obligation; all he asks is enough time and co-operation to learn the realities of your situation.

It could be a highly profitable experience.

We've got the biggest range of trucks in the business; so if anybody can give your efficiency a lift, we can.

Our business is to increase your profits

**Lansing Bagnall**

Britain's largest maker of lift trucks.

I'd like to know how to expand my storage.

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Phone: Basingstoke 3131.  
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# New car sales increase despite petrol threats

BY JAMES ENSOR

EARLY INDICATIONS of November car sales suggest that the British have responded to the threat of petrol shortages by buying more new cars.

Sales have been running well ahead of last month's levels and may even have exceeded last month's total of 138,000, which was a record for the month.

The industry expects that the final total for this month will be either above or very close to last year's level. Early in the year car sales were running slightly ahead of last month's, however, they have dropped back.

There has been a marked swing towards British cars and away from imports and also towards smaller cars. The Mini, now in its 13th year of production, has been the most popular model and waiting lists for some versions, particularly automatic or twin carburetor models, are now three or six months in some parts of the country.

It also remains in strong demand in European export markets, where buyers have also tended to switch to cars with lower fuel consumption.

The success of the Mini, with the Marina also selling well, has enabled British Leyland to capture a market share of about 37 per cent. This is the level always regarded by the corporation's sales chiefs as a desirable and attainable target, given adequate production.

Throughout much of the spring and summer the output of the key Austin-Morris division was reduced by labour disputes and British Leyland's market share once fell to 27 per cent. This month Austin-Morris alone has captured over 27 per cent. of the market.

Ford, with the Escort out-

ing the Cortina — presumably because of fears of a petrol shortage — has also gained a solid market share of about 22 per cent. this month.

Chrysler, recovering rapidly from the effects of the 'electricians' dispute, was able to surge back to close to 10 per cent. of the market, but Vauxhall has slipped to under 4 per cent. — a pathetic position, which is the result of its long dispute at Ellesmere Port.

## Lost ground

Imports have been reduced considerably by the strong showing of three of the four British manufacturers. Datsun, Volkswagen and Renault have all lost ground in the market share and total imports have taken only 23 per cent. of the market — a considerable drop from the 32 per cent. recorded last month.

Flat sales, though, have held up well, because of the strength in the small car sector of the 128, 137 and 128.

The greatest decline in sales seems to have been recorded by the importers of large or luxury cars and by the Japanese car concessionaires.

There has not yet been any measurable decline in sales of Jaguars, Rovers or other expensive British cars. Jaguar sales were actually higher this month than last month and with waiting lists still stretching well through next year the effects of fuel shortages are unlikely to be felt for some time.

Although second hand prices of some large cars have been weakening — and secondhand Minis have become more expensive — there have been no reports from dealers of cancelled Jaguar XJ 12s or Rolls-Royce Corniches.

In Germany, where last month's sales figures have just

been published, there has also been a marked swing towards smaller cars.

Volkswagen, benefiting from renewed interest in the Beetle and from the fact that Opel's model had not yet got into top gear, captured 25 per cent. of the market, a better showing than in recent months.

Opel, which led the German market earlier in the year, dropped back to 20 per cent. and Ford, which has not achieved the anticipated success with its Consul/Granada model, held only 10 per cent.

Ford was once again outbid by Audi, whose 80 model has shared the success of the 100, and only barely managed to remain ahead of Daimler-Benz.

Although sales of both Mercedes and BMW models were a little lower than in previous months, the considerable waiting lists which still exist for both the 230 and 252 suggest that there is not yet any marked move away from the German luxury cars.

It appears that Germans have reacted to threats of the fuel shortage by turning to the lowest-powered variants of the Beetle rather than to smaller and more economical imports such as the Fiat 126 or Citroen Ami.

The new price levels of DM700 to DM800 are still rather higher than the cost of automatic transmission on a typical British medium-sized car.

Volkswagen has not yet considered reducing its output of cars despite the fact that both Ford and Opel have announced some short-time working.

Daimler-Benz, which is as yet in no danger of having to reduce output, has announced that some of its truck workers may have to work short time because of the weakness of the German truck market.

# CEGB atomic power policy taking shape

BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

NEW EVIDENCE of the Central Electricity Generating Board's commitment to a massive atomic power programme emerged yesterday, with the announcement that a former RAF station in Huntingdonshire could become the site of a nuclear power station.

The site, at Molesworth, belongs to the Ministry of Defence. The investigation is expected to take over a year, and the CEGB could start construction towards the end of this decade if planning consent is given.

A similar time scale has been applied to the recently announced investigation into the Ministry's research establishment at Orfordness, in Suffolk.

The two sites are well down on the list of possible nuclear stations in terms of the order in which construction could begin. The CEGB already has initial Government consent for three new Advanced Gas-Cooled Reactor projects (AGRs), at Sizewell (Suffolk), Portkewitt (Monmouthshire) and Heysham (Lancs.).

Since the Board now wants to build a series of American-type Light Water Reactors (LWRs), it is having to consider making a series of new applications, some of them for other sites.

It has already put in a multi-purpose application for Sizewell, covering the reactor systems currently under review by the Government and the National Nuclear Corporation.

Since the CEGB's LWR programme involves ordering six stations between 1975 and 1980,

## New SE rule on dividend options

Financial Times Reporter

THE STOCK EXCHANGE has changed its rules to take account of the growing habit of companies of offering their shareholders the option of taking their dividends in cash, shares, or in other securities.

A new rule, 113(3), has been passed by the Council, subject to confirmation on December 11. It covers the situation where a buyer of a share cum dividend is not in time to get himself on the share register before the distribution is made.

It requires the buyer to give notice of whether he wishes to take the distribution in the form of shares.

The new rules say: "Where a company offers the alternative of a dividend in securities or in cash, buyers wishing to opt for securities instead of cash must give notice in writing to sellers not later than five business days before the last date given by the company for exercising that option."

If no notice has been given by that time, all claims will be settled in cash.

# Vickers to build £2m. factory

VICKERS is to spend £2m. on building a factory at Crayford for the engineering group. The plant will take over almost all production from Vickers' works at Crayford, once one of the biggest producers of armaments within the Vickers group.

The Crayford factory has been through a difficult period, diversifying out of armaments into commercial products. Two years ago the economic recession, and the consequent fall in demand for its packaging machinery, together with the loss of an expected order from the Ministry of Defence threatened the factory with closure.

Instead, however, it was decided to contract the work force further and rationalise. Now demand for the commercial products has picked up and Vickers has decided to rehouse the commercial production on an adjoining site.

The new factory, however, will not be equipped for production of armaments, which will probably continue at the old works for as long as demand lasts.

The plant will provide 145,000 square feet of space, which will be used to manufacture bottle filling machines and package making equipment.

## Hayley Mills tax case decision later

FIVE LAW LORDS yesterday reserved their decision in the final round of actress Hayley Mills' £45,000 tax battle with the Inland Revenue. It will be given later.

The Revenue is challenging in the House of Lords an Appeal Court decision that Miss Mills is not liable to pay an extra £45,000 surtax. The case arises from an agreement made in 1960 when she was 14.

Under the agreement, she was to receive a salary of £400 a year. But during the four tax years from 1962 with which the appeal was concerned, she earned £173,013. After deducting agents' commission and expenses, out of that, £111,327 was paid in income and profit tax.

The question for the law lords was whether that income attracted surtax, as income of Miss Mills, over and above the tax already paid.

# Retailers attack big oil companies

BY PAUL ELLMAN

MAJOR OIL companies are accused of failing to live some dealers.

Not only will we see a decline in the number of sites in the U.K., but we dealers who remain will be as vulnerable to control by companies as tenants and licensees have been in the past.

The report, which has been sent to Mr. and Mrs. General of Fair Trading, drawn up by direct comment from the oil companies.

While rejecting charges, they refuse to supply petrol to stations with a small tank put, and these are being used through a system.

The oil companies argue this process is also recognizing the bulk of garage owners point to the trend for smaller stations and control outlets — also accuse oil sales at bigger outlets.

## 'Supplies refused'

These are alleged to be contraventions of the undertakings the companies gave to the Board of Trade, under the Department of Trade and Industry, after a Monopolies Commission report in 1966.

The report, based on replies from 1,007 retailers — about 3 per cent. of the country's 24,000 petrol outlets — also accuses oil

# Varying safety laws slow motor industry exports

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER

BRITAIN'S MOTOR industry is facing further and expensive, technical barriers to trade because of a mass of legislation in safety and performance which differs from country to country, an industry chief said yesterday.

Sir Monty Pritchard, chairman of Perkins Engines and outgoing president of the Motor Industry Research Association, said these technical barriers represented the biggest single obstacle to a truly unified trading community in Europe.

Tariff barriers between Britain and the rest of Europe were coming down, but the motor industry was paying what he called "chaos costs" in its attempts to get products certified for sale in the different export markets.

Production could be interrupted, extra documentation required, modifications varied, consequently time was often wasted.

These costs, with the direct and opportunity losses, added up to a staggering total, he said.

Sir Monty told MIRA members, who were meeting for their annual luncheon in London, it was up to the industry to exert greater pressure. The EEC provided a framework within which technical barriers could be acceptable for sale in countries of the world with significant modification for country," Sir Monty said.

## LIVERPOOL'S NEW RADAR STATION

The port of Liverpool new 84-foot-high radar station equipped with the latest national radar and assisted by a radar unit, is now nearing completion on the seaward point of the Royal Seaforth dock complex.

The station, which has a range of 20 miles over Liverpool, should be in operation by middle of January.

# Suspension of senior civil servant 'was inescapable'

GOVERNMENT DOUBTS over how to handle the Maudling affair might have influenced action over a senior civil servant, it was suggested at Leeds Crown Court yesterday.

The civil servant, George Pottinger, 57, and former architect John Poulson, 63, have both denied corruption and conspiracy charges following gifts worth £30,000.

The court heard that adverse publicity began during the Poulson bankruptcy hearings.

Sir Douglas Hadow, former head of the Scottish Civil Service, said he discussed a possible Parliamentary statement with Sir William Armstrong, head of the Civil Service.

This would have said that Pottinger had never sought to obtain any favour for Poulson,

but that a Civil Service Board would be investigating the way he had conducted his private affairs.

Mr. Wilfred Steer, for Pottinger, asked Sir Douglas if there had been a change of mind "because the Cabinet could not make up its mind about what to do about Maudling?"

"I would be very doubtful about that," replied Sir Douglas, recalling that Pottinger had said he would make a public statement if the Government failed to do so.

Sir Douglas said it was agreed between Sir William and himself that Pottinger's suspension had become inescapable and they reported their decision at Ministerial level. Mr. Maudling

resigned as Home Secretary on the day of Pottinger's suspension.

Sir Douglas said that before the suspension a formula had been discussed in which Pottinger would be said to have gone on leave as opposed to being sent on leave.

While he was on leave, Sir Douglas had consulted Pottinger's colleagues, who thought he would live it all down.

"At that time we did not believe Pottinger had exercised any improper influence in relation to Scottish Office affairs," said Sir Douglas.

He suspended Pottinger on July 18, telling him he had "painful news" for him. Police were making inquiries.

The trial was adjourned until today.

# Fibreboard packaging growth rate falls

BY LORNE BARLING

THE GROWTH rate in the fibreboard packaging industry has started to fall back in recent months because of lack of labour and raw materials, according to Mr. Michael Howard, chairman of Thames Case.

As a counter to one of these problems there was an opportunity to use less materials, perhaps by adapting a case instead of a tray or using a wrap-around pack rather than a one piece type.

Speaking in London yesterday, he said: "The rapid expansion of the economy has led to rapid growth of the fibreboard packaging industry. Unfortunately this has been limited by shortages of capacity, labour and materials, the latter aggravated by rapidly increased prices."

Labour was proving to be a particular problem, although in theory there was some remaining capacity if extra shifts could be mounted.

Mr. Howard said he was loath to predict what might happen in the industry next year with

unpredictable factors such as prices, oil supplies and credit having such an influence.

He said however: "There will be major opportunities for companies within the industry with a balanced range of products and an attitude better directed towards meeting customer needs than in the past."

Thames Case, a subsidiary of Unilever, had been challenged along with other companies in the past year with maintaining efficiency in factories which were working flat out.

## Saleroom

### German chamois makes £50,000

A GERMAN silver-gilt model of a chamois by Hieronymus Bang of Nuernberg was sold at Christie's yesterday for £50,000, making it the most expensive item of Continental silver ever sold. It was bought by Colnaghi and was top price in the sale of the Sydney J. Lamson collection, which has already realised \$518,884.

Among other silver gilt items, a Nantius cup made by van Rooyesteijn in Utrecht (1596) went for £23,000 to S. J. Phillips. A smaller similar pair made in 1638 was sold at Christie's by William Randolph Hearst for £22,000. A Swiss collector, paid dealer Kugel.

The Continental silver sale totalled £181,713.

The largest collection of English copper coins to come up in the saleroom for 20 years was offered at Glendinning's yesterday. It marked the end of a record year, which brought in £908,847.

Yesterday's sale fetched a total of £46,889. The English copper coin collection formed by Mr. James Noble, a 27-year-old economics student from Sydney University, made £27,701. Highest price was £680, for an 1880 farthing (Hearn).

At Sotheby's, manuscripts of the 14th-century to the 17th-century from the collection formed by Sir Thomas Phillipps, Bart, realised £277,180.



The £50,000 chamois

All of these securities having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.

New Issues / November, 1973

## Walter E. Heller & Company

\$50,000,000

7% Senior Notes due November 1, 1980

\$25,000,000

8½% Subordinated Debentures due November 1, 1993

### Salomon Brothers

Blyth Eastman Dillon &amp; Co.

Drexel Burnham &amp; Co.

Hornblower &amp; Weeks-Hemphill, Noyes

Kuhn, Loeb &amp; Co.

Paine, Webber, Jackson &amp; Curtis

Stone &amp; Webster Securities Corporation

Dean Witter &amp; Co.

Bear, Stearns &amp; Co.

\*Basie Securities Corporation

Dominick &amp; Dominick,

Ladenburg, Thalmann &amp; Co. Inc.

\*Nomura Securities International, Inc.

L. F. Rothschild &amp; Co.

Thomson &amp; McKinnon Auchincloss Kohlmeyer Inc.

\*Warburg-Paribas, Inc.

Wood, Struthers &amp; Winthrop Inc.

\*Banca Commerciale Italiana

\*Hambros Bank

\*Nederlandsche Middenstandsbank N.V.

### Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith

The First Boston Corporation

duPont Walston

Goldman, Sachs &amp; Co.

E. F. Hutton &amp; Company Inc.

Lehman Brothers

Reynolds Securities Inc.

Wertheim &amp; Co., Inc.

White, Weld &amp; Co.

A. G. Becker &amp; Co.

W. H. Morton &amp; Co.

\*The Daiwa Securities Co. America, Inc.

Hayden Stone Inc.

\*The Nikko Securities Co.

John Nuveen &amp; Co.

\*Suez American Corporation

\*UBS-DB Corporation

\*Weeden &amp; Co.

\*Yamaichi International (America), Inc.

\*Banque de Bruxelles S.A.

\*Banque Nationale de Paris S.A.

\*Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourgeoise

\*Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken

\*Underwriter of Senior Notes only.

### Dillon, Read & Co. Inc.

Halsey, Stuart &amp; Co. Inc.

Kidder, Peabody &amp; Co.

Loeb, Rhoades &amp; Co.

Smith, Barney &amp; Co.

White, Weld &amp; Co.

A. G. Becker &amp; Co.

W. H. Morton &amp; Co.

\*The Daiwa Securities Co. America, Inc.

Hayden Stone Inc.

\*The Nikko Securities Co.

John Nuveen &amp; Co.

\*Suez American Corporation

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\*Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken

\*Underwriter of Senior Notes only.

## INTERIM STATEMENTS

### CRELLON HOLDINGS LIMITED

	6 months ended 31st October 1973	6 months ended 31st October 1972	Year ended 30th April 1973
Group Turnover	5,059,208	3,560,750	7,885,480
Group Trading Profit before Interest and Tax	185,793	139,554	308,115
Less: Loan Stock Interest	Nil	20,400	23,119
Profit before Tax	185,793	119,154	278,996
Contributable to Crellon Shareholders	185,793	119,154	278,996
Earnings attributable to Crellon Shareholders	92,793	70,454	148,996
Cost of Dividend	28,000	Nil	42,000
Retained Earnings	64,793	70,454	107,996
Earnings per Ordinary Share*	3.1p	2.9p	5.7p
Dividend per Ordinary Share	0.93p	Nil	1.4p

\*Earnings per Ordinary Share and the dividend per Ordinary Share are based on the new corporation tax system and the figures for the last year have been adjusted for comparative purposes.

Chairman, Mr. Victor Cress reports: "For the six months to 31st October 1973, sales have increased by 42.3 per cent. compared with the same period last year and the profit before tax is up by 56 per cent."

These figures include for one month only the sales and profits of our new acquisition, P.D.M. Fittings Company Limited and its subsidiaries, which comprises our new plumbers' merchants division, based in Scotland.

Our other two divisions, electrical and electronic component distribution, continue to grow satisfactorily.

Orders received by all divisions are at a record level, but sales growth is being limited by the

general shortage of supplies. However, the energy supply crisis could reduce both customer demand and the efficiency of our delivery service.

Dividend The Board of Directors has declared an interim dividend of 13.3 per cent gross, as forecast in the prospectus at the time of our public issue in January this year.

Due to our recent flotation, the final dividend is not restricted under Phase III. Nevertheless the Board at this stage, despite the current results reported, does not wish to commit itself to forecasting a final dividend of more than 20 per cent gross due to the outside factors mentioned.

## ALDERMAN SECURITIES GROUP LIMITED

Interim Report for the six months ended 30th September, 1973

RESULTS	Six months ended 30th September 1973 (unaudited)	Year ended 31st March 1973 (note)
Income	£ 251,548	£ 384,614
Group Profit for the period before Taxation	138,264	220,047
Taxation — corporation tax at 50% (1973 40%) based on the profit for the period	68,300	88,210
Group Profit after Taxation	69,964	131,837
Pre-acquisition profits — the Nationwide Group	—	52,288
Profit available for appropriation	69,964	79,568
Interim Dividend	25,687	16,600
Profit retained	£43,297	£62,788

Note: Comparative figures for the six months ended 30th September, 1972 are not available. The comparative figures include the results of the Nationwide Group for the nine months ended 31st March, 1973.

### DIVIDEND

The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend of 0.7p per share which together with its associated tax credit is equivalent to 10 per cent. in respect of the year ending 31st March, 1974, payable on 25th February, 1974, to Shareholders on the Register at the close of business on 21st January, 1974. It will be the intention of the Directors subject to unforeseen circumstances to declare a Final Dividend in respect of the current year for payment about August, 1974 of not less than 8 per cent. and in line with the intention expressed in the Prospectus in November, 1972, was the only dividend paid in respect of that year.

### PROSPECTS

The Directors consider that the legislation currently before Parliament concerning Consumer Credit and other forms of lending will work to the advantage of the Group and is relevant to the plans for the setting up of a commercial banking operation. In these circumstances they have decided to await further clarification of the impending legislation before proceeding further.

Business during the six months period has been at a satisfactory level and the Directors are confident that this will continue and that despite the present financial climate, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, the results for the year should substantially exceed those for the year ended 31st March, 1973.

28th November, 1973.



JPK 101550

# Call for worker-director legislation

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

REGINALD PRENTICE, shadow Minister of Employment, led for a legislative push to give to the introduction of a new industry in industry to be presided at a Financial Times conference on Participation and British Industry in London today.

He said he was worried that discussions on the subject were being bogged down and the momentum towards worker participation might be lost in the next few months.

Giving an Opposition view of worker participation, Mr. Prentice said: "Everyone seems to be having doubts. There are differences of view in the Government, the CBI and the TUC on a matter."



Three of the conference speakers (left to right) Mr. G. W. Mackworth-Young, partner in the stockbroking firm of Rowe and Pitman; Mr. Reginald Prentice, "shadow" Secretary for Employment; Professor John Wood of Sheffield University and a member of the Commission on Industrial Relations.

## Complex

"Of course, this is a complex subject. The parties are bound to take time to examine the pros and cons. But we ought to be able to get to the heart of the matter in the not-too-distant future to promote workers' participation."

There should be worker representatives in every company of a certain size. Decisions affecting the rights of workers were being made in Boardrooms that were increasingly remote from the shop floor.

He warned that any attempt by the Government to produce legislation in this field was not likely to command general respect and acceptance in industry until the Industrial Relations Act had been repealed.

Mr. Prentice said that whatever changes were made must not conflict with machinery already built up by trade unionists. Stronger trade unionism and the growth of collective bargaining were the principle ways which the status and dignity of the worker could be improved. It meant that a pattern of elected works councils on the German model would not be appropriate.

Mr. Prentice said Labour Party proposals envisaged that the Government would introduce Bills to repeal the Industrial Relations Act and establish a new Conciliation and Arbitration Service, an Employment Opportunities Bill, extending the workers' rights in many ways, such as compulsory advance notice of major redundancies, longer periods of notice, and the right to belong to a trade union. Another Bill would deal with participation by workers in decision making.

He said that the Government was aware of the need to move in the time-table the conference had heard was likely for major Common Market moves in Brussels.

ownership gave the worker-shareholder no more rights in decision taking than were possessed by any owner of a similar number of shares.

The view of European unions on participation was given by Herr Gunter Kopke, secretary of the European Metal Workers' Federation.

He said the workers and their unions did not just want to participate in decisions on which they had no real influence. What they needed was more industrial democracy, social justice and freedom for the working people.

Mr. G. W. Mackworth-Young, a stockbroker, and partner in Rowe and Pitman, said that the supervision of management by outside directors, including worker representatives, was unlikely to have much technical effect on stock markets which reacted to the performance of management rather than its composition.

He suggested that employees should be entitled to vote at company annual meetings and the value of an employee's or a shareholder's vote should be adjusted according to the length of time he had owned shares or worked in the company. This would enable them to keep out "disruptive hotheads" from powerful decisions and to make it more difficult for financial manipulators to play "ducks and drakes" with industry.

Mr. Frank Chapple, president and general secretary of the Electrical and Plumbing Union, said he and his union had reservations about the value of participatory schemes because they were sceptical about the extent to which formal schemes outlined represented the means of increased control and democracy within industry. Neither the Labour Party nor the TUC had faced up to the questions of the increased responsibility which should go with increased worker control.

Involve in what he felt would be illusory participation schemes could lead to a complete breakdown between official union machinery and the rank and file. He said trade unions existed essentially to act as a counterbalancing power within industry, and they must remain independent of management. "There is no mass movement of trade unionists that want to take over the Board room or participate in running the plant," he added. He suggested that if participation went ahead, a new trade union movement would probably emerge, discarding existing unions who had joined up with management.

Mr. D. Clark, managing director of the packaging division of Buzzi Pulp and Paper, said that value of an employee's or a shareholder's vote should be adjusted according to the length of time he had owned shares or worked in the company. This would enable them to keep out "disruptive hotheads" from powerful decisions and to make it more difficult for financial manipulators to play "ducks and drakes" with industry.

## Equilibrium

Dr. Ernst-Gerhard Erdmann, deputy director general of the German employers' federation (BDA), said that in Germany collective bargaining between unions and employers took place without any government interference. There was also worker participation by trade union representatives in national bodies with influence in economic and labour market policy questions. Works councils had proved to be a constructive and efficient instrument for two way communication between workers and employers. He felt there was a danger of destroying the existing equilibrium between workers and employers by an extension of co-determination at the supervisory board level.

Professor Victor Morgan, a partner in Economists' Advisory Group, dealing with capital accumulation by workers in Britain, said many schemes for workers' participation in share

ownership gave the worker-shareholder no more rights in decision taking than were possessed by any owner of a similar number of shares.

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## "Funds for regions being wasted"

BY LORNE SARLING

GOVERNMENT FUNDS being used to promote regional development are being wasted because present policy does not discriminate between efficient and inefficient enterprises, a report claimed yesterday.

The claim was made in a paper published yesterday by the pro-Conservative Tory pressure group, which said it was time for a change in regional policy.

It criticised the emphasis on capital investment grants which, it said, encouraged the substitution of capital equipment for labour, particularly when much of the money went to areas with ample supplies of labour.

The present form of incentives, it argued, might even encourage industrialists to set up plants in areas which they did have considered inefficient in the absence of substantial Government aid.

The paper was written by Prof. Donald MacKay, Professor of Political Economy at the University of Aberdeen. It said: "These incentives do not distinguish between efficient and inefficient enterprises, so that substantial subsidies are made available to firms which have no long-term future."

This involves waste of the Government funds used to promote regional development. Worse still, the financial incentives currently available actively promote an inefficient use of our resources of labour and capital to reduce economic efficiency."

He said that if regional policy were not to be discredited some new form of financial assistance must be found which encouraged viable regional development and which maximised the benefits obtained from Government expenditure on regional policy.

The proposal put forward in the paper was that the rate of corporation tax paid by a company should be determined by the distribution of its employees between development and non-development areas.

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## Sharp reduction in U.S. tourists to Britain

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

A NUMBER of visitors to Britain from the U.S., the U.K.'s main source of tourist revenue, showed a sharp and accelerating decline in the main summer months of this year.

This was contrasted with a rise in European visits, but the British and German tourists tend to spend less in Britain than the Americans.

A number of Americans visiting Britain in September 1973, which is 18,000 less than in September 1972. In the last fall was 16,000, and only there was a 14,000 reduction.

There is likely to be an argument over whether this is a real downturn or whether the pattern hanging, with more visitors in the winter.

Including the winter figures, loss of American tourists in the first nine months of this year three per cent. The Department of Trade and Industry, which has published the latest figures, has changed its annual adjustment system in a way which makes the fall-off a little less dramatic than figures immediately indicate.

All (excluding Ireland and Commonwealth) foreign visits in the U.K. rose by 8 per cent in September, to reach 100,000. The rise for the first 9 months was nine per cent. There has been a particularly

marked increase in the number of visitors from Belgium.

Tourist-receiving countries the world over have noticed a fall in American visitors this year. The decline in the value of the dollar in the summer, and domestic economic and political uncertainty, led to a situation in which the Americans were less willing to leave their own shores.

## Events

### To-day

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS—House of Commons: Merchant Shipping Bill (second reading); Fuel and Electricity (Control) Bill (remaining stages); House of Lords: Land Registry Bill (Committee) and Road Traffic Bill (Committee).

SOCIETY OF INVESTMENT ANALYSTS—Lecture at the Library of the Institute of Bankers, Lombard Street, E.C.4, at 5.30 p.m. To be addressed by Mr. P. J. G. Smith, Chairman of Metal Box Company.

COMPANY MEETINGS—AURORA GEAR, Sheffield, 12. (Chairman, Mr. G. A. Brown.)

CHARLES (DAVID), Birmingham, 12. (Chairman, Mr. R. S. L. Bucknham.)

DUPLICATE TILES, Wiltshire, 12. (Chairman, Mr. R. S. L. Bucknham.)

SOUTHERN INDIA TEA ESTATES, 12. (Chairman, Mr. R. S. L. Bucknham.)

STERLING AND DOLLAR AREAS INVESTMENT TRUST, 66, Grosvenor Street, E.C.3. (Chairman, Mr. F. W. P. Jones.)

WALKER AND HOMER, Birmingham, 12. (Chairman, Mr. G. R. Walker.)

# Investments of £5.5m. in steel and aluminium

BY KEN GOFTON

CAPITAL investment schemes totalling £5.5m. were announced yesterday in the steel and aluminium industries.

At its Consett works the British Steel Corporation plans to spend £1.8m. on replacing a chemical by-products plant serving its No. 3 and No. 4 coke oven batteries. A similar amount will be spent at the Corporation's nearby Templeton silica brick works on the replacement of materials reception and preparation units, which will result in the production of higher quality refractories.

Both projects are expected to be ready for commissioning in the latter half of 1975.

ease fears that the works, which employs 5,000 and is the major industry in the Consett area, would be overlooked because of its isolated position in the Corporation's investment programme.

In the aluminium industry, Alcan Booth Extrusions said yesterday that it was to spend £1.8m. on new equipment at Banbury, for commissioning next year. This is in addition to the £1m. investment announced in February.

The company will install a 1,600-tonne press next June, and a 3,000-tonne press next September. Another 1,600-tonne press, ordered last February, was commissioned on schedule last month, and was on full three-shift working within seven days. These new presses, Alcan Booth said yesterday, will increase the company's annual extrusion capacity by over 12,500 tonnes.

In addition, Alcan Booth is to install at Banbury at a cost of £300,000, a Properzi rod rolling machine and ancillary equipment to manufacture electrical products, such as high quality rod for fine wire drawing, and a solid conductor. Output will be of the order of 24,000 tonnes a year.

## North West plan for EEC liaison officer

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT MANCHESTER, Nov. 28.

THE NORTH WEST may base an industrial liaison officer on one of the paupers of Europe, Brussels to stimulate European investment in Lancashire and Cheshire.

The Greater Manchester County Council decided today to invite Merseyside County Council and the North West Industrial Development Association to join in discussions on the idea.

The move was suggested by Mr. Lawrence Bayley, of Cheshire, leader of the Liberals, who said the North West should have a liaison officer at the centre of the EEC, as did German states.

"We should not be considered as one of the paupers of Europe, always on the receiving end of a special grant. Whether we like it or not, Brussels is becoming the commercial centre of Europe," he said.

The council also endorsed a call for adjustments in the criteria determining how assistance from the EEC's Regional Development Fund should be distributed.

It supported the argument of the North West Industrial Development Association that the obsolescence and devaluation should be introduced as a further criterion for aid.

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## BOOKS

## Versatile courtier

BY C. P. SNOW

Lord Hervey: Eighteenth Century Courtier by Robert Halsband. Oxford, £4.50. 380 pages.

Robert Halsband is a distinguished English scholar who seems to know the first half of the English 18th century as though it were a club he has belonged to for years. He also writes with unobtrusive sparkle, is very witty, and has an ironic and entirely uncensorious eye for human frailty and absurdity. It would be difficult to find a more suitable person to write about Lord Hervey, and this book is a treat.

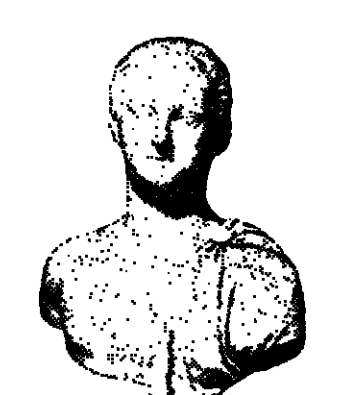
Hervey was a singular creature. On the surface, his career was not unlike that of other moderately successful men, at a time when there were fortunes and social elevation to be gained at court. His father was a substantial Suffolk country gentleman who combined love and duty by marrying two heiresses, themselves daughters of other East Anglian squires. Hervey was a remarkably loving and uxorious husband, and remarkably philoprogenitive. He had 17 children by the second marriage, of whom the famous Hervey was the eldest and to the father the most beloved and the object of the greatest ambitions.

So young Hervey had a good start. He was clever, intuitive, and ambitious. He was very good-looking, except for 18th-century teeth. He was, rather improbably, a first-class amateur jockey. He married a beautiful girl for love, just for once in that family, collecting no money in the process. As philoprogenitive as his father, he had eight children. Both father and son seem to have been unusually potent, or at least unusually fertile. In his later life, the younger Hervey didn't meet his wife often, but when he did, a child automatically ensued.

He attached himself to Walpole, which was a competent move, and Walpole made a characteristically Walpolean use of him. As Professor Plumb has taught us, Court politics was fundamental in the early 18th century. Walpole had to keep the confidence of George II. The way to George II was through his wife. The way to his wife was through installing some confident whom she could, in a quasi-maternal fashion, love. Hervey was ideally cast for this job. Thus he was installed as Vice-Chamberlain at the Court. He often wished to be in the Cabinet, making the policy; but

he did not know his own capacities, and Walpole did. The Queen duly loved him. Walpole had his channel of communication. The world profited by Hervey's wonderful memoirs, including the scene, more grotesque than anything Salin Simon or Proust ever wrote, in which the Queen on her deathbed told the King that he must marry again. To which he replied, stuttering between sobs: "Non, J'aurai des maitresses."

The above is, as it were, the who's who outline of Hervey's life. The inner life was stranger. He was, to some of his contemporaries, a figure of fun. Without experiencing his physical presence, it is not entirely easy to see why. He was, it is true, homosexual. Or rather, as well as his marriage and several other affairs with women, he had at least one long-lasting homosexual relation. This was dignified, respectfully, conducted on both sides on the plane of a serious mutual love. The circumstances were often a little



Lord Hervey, 1729, from a bust by Bouchardon

odd. Stephen Fox was another well-connected country gentleman, eight years younger than Hervey, who was 31 when it all began. They went off to Italy together for a whole year. Hervey's wife doesn't seem to have minded this, and conceived a child immediately he returned. She and Stephen were on the warmest terms, and remained so after Hervey's death and as long as they lived.

Stephen Fox wasn't as clever as Hervey, and they didn't have enough interests in common. After a number of years the love faded, into a pleasingly affect-

ionate friendship. Hervey saw Stephen happily married, and again there was a large family. Stephen had exactly one worldly ambition in this life, and that was to become a peer. This Hervey obligingly managed for him, and Stephen lived into his seventies as Lord Ichester.

None of this is funny. Yet there is no doubt that a good many people found Hervey so, in a disconcerting and contemptuous fashion. Not the Queen, who said in effect that if she had been younger she would have fallen in love with him. The King told him that he was "too nice", but that referred to his taste in pictures. His father adored him, and wouldn't believe a word of any of the rumours. But his mother came to hate him (the family relations of the 18th-century upper class, above all with the Hanoverians, were of preposterous violence in which loathing was often the main component).

Hervey attracted more scurrilous comment than anyone in the politics of his time, or perhaps in English politics since. Pope's caricature of him as Sporus is about as bitter as anything ever written. Pope was a venomous little beast, but even Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, who was a friend of Hervey's, and though sharply-tongued not specially malicious, couldn't resist the quip, now time-worn: "the world consists of men, women, and Herveys."

Why was all this? He may have had irritating epinecious mannerisms. There is some evidence for this; and though that sounder than his sexual sexual flatterer dancing attendance on a not specially prepossessing female celebrity, which isn't even to us, an agreeable spectacle. He certainly must have lacked gravitas. He was a good speaker, but never carried any weight in the Commons or in politics. The lack of brains isn't a fatal handicap in politics, but the lack of gravitas always is.

## Goodies

BY DEBORAH PICKERING

We were both wartime babies and, in a way, The Saturday Book (Hutchinson, £4.75, 256 pages), and I have grown up together. Published annually since 1941 the annual is now 35, its presence evoking nostalgia and the perfect gift book solution.

This year's Saturday is on the top line with the super-trendies. Taste for Victoriana, raving collectanea and the fashion swing to the '30s and '40s has underlined John Hadfield's inspired treasury of literary goodies. Philippe Garner's chapter on art-deco sculpture is illuminating and mouth-watering with the most gorgeous illustrations, the latter maintaining the book's superb standard of colour reproduction. TV comedian Ronnie Barker boasts a fantastic collection of 20,000 postcards, seaside pottery souvenirs, Victorian children's books and model bathing beauties. William Hardie, an authority on Victorian painting, assesses the talented but highly amusing "problem" pictures of Sir William Orchardson. Judith Banister writes about silver wine labels and bylines. Lady Lascelles Georgian and Regency printwork embroidery—another up-and-coming collecting field.

Other curiosities include Paul Jennings on nutty newspaper headlines and advertisements; corn dollies; secret passages; photographs of vanishing Greece; an examination of the activities and a social history of the loo. Incidentally, the Saturday is the perfect loo book—never to be left on the coffee table—a splendid companion at ruminate and isolated moments.

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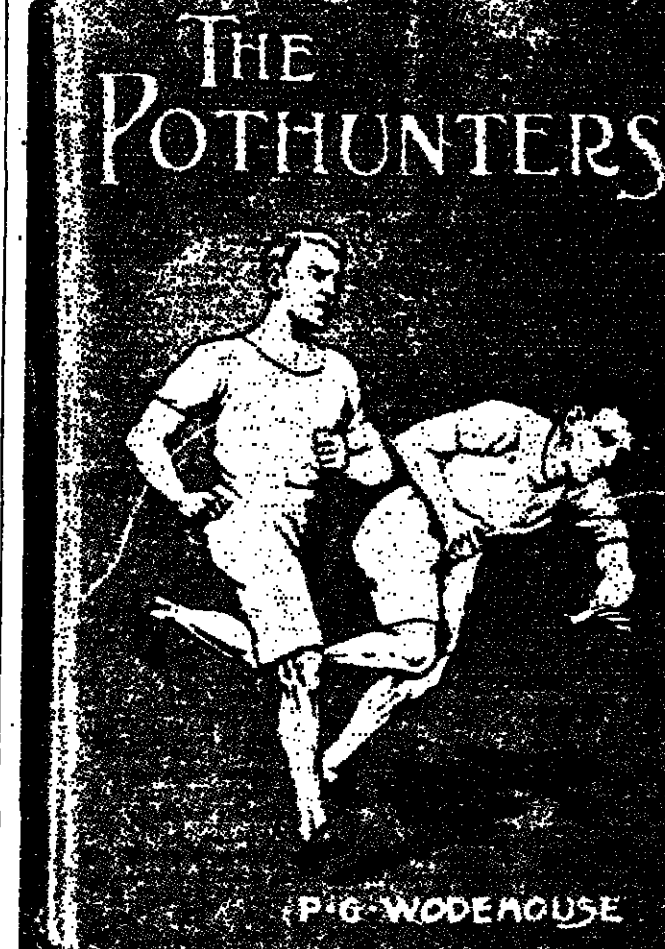
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P. G. Wodehouse's first book which appeared in 1902. His most recent novel 'Bachelors Anonymous' came out earlier this year. Mr. Wodehouse contributed boys' stories to magazines like 'The Captain' around the turn of the century. His work of this period is noted in Eric Quayle's finely illustrated 'The Collector's Book of Boys' Stories' (Studio Vista, £4.95, 150 pages)

## Silent Solzhenitsyn

BY ALEX de JONGE

Ten Years after Ivan Denisovich by Zhores A. Medvedev. Macmillan, £3.95. 202 pages

It sometimes seems that the story of the repression of the Russian civil rights movement, more particularly of the attempts to put Solzhenitsyn in his place—behind a cordon sanitaire of silence—is in danger of being killed by kindness. Those not directly involved in what is now happening in the Soviet Union may occasionally feel that their concern is being blunted by the sheer excess of often uninformed protest and righteous indignation. Anyone who can admit to a feeling of guilty boredom when faced with yet another second-hand account of KGB rightfulness should read this book.

The Soviet geneticist Zhores Medvedev is an intimate friend of Solzhenitsyn, and he describes his book as a *Festschrift* in his honour. It tells the inside story of the increasing pressures brought to bear on Solzhenitsyn almost from the moment Khrushchev authorised Alexander Tvardovsky to publish Ivan Denisovich in his journal *Novy Mir* some ten years ago. Part of the ground has been covered before, but never with this degree of informed personal involvement.

The book has its share of charming anecdotes; we see Solzhenitsyn at home, or leaving his hut in the country to winter in town, with his car, Ivan Denisovich, loaded with apples. But much more important Medvedev writes with a clarity and insight that enables him to put across the background, show

us how the Soviet system operates. He succeeds in animating the whole sorry story of often unscrupulous bureaucratic machinations, giving life to just that part of the Solzhenitsyn dossier which less informed and well written accounts have failed to bring alive.

This Medvedev can make us feel just what a blow it was to a civilised Russia when Tvardovsky was obliged to leave *Novy Mir*. He also provides fascinating incidental information, that Ivan Denisovich sold a million copies in Russia, that a Soviet author receives about four per cent of his foreign royalties after all deductions. He gives us a glimpse of the sinister middlemen who peddle manuscripts and information to the West, on behalf of the government, and to make trouble.

There is also the bizarre but intriguing suggestion that certain unique organisations derive a proportion of their funds from royalties earned in the West by Soviet writers. Finally the book is not without black humour. A Soviet literary journal described *The First Circle* as a "slander on Stalin's Brave New World". This book is in no sense the masterpiece before. It is warmly recommended to anyone interested in recent events in the Soviet Union who may feel that other treatments have been blurred by an overlay of uninformed concern. It is also the best account we shall get for a long time of Ten Years in the Life of Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

## Middle East maze

BY RICHARD JOHNS

Palestine or Israel?—The Untold Story of Why We Failed, by Jon Kimche, Secker and Warburg, £3.90. 360 pages

The question asked by Jon Kimche at the start of his latest book is, indeed, a timely one: "Was there ever a chance, can there still be a chance that Jews and Arabs can live in peace?" The book is a study of the geographical entity encompassed in the old British Mandate.

The sub-title is pretentious because the story has been overtold. However, Mr. Kimche has produced new material and illuminated his "insights", particularly his appraisal of Israeli politics in the aftermath of the 1967 war. Published just before the latest Arab-Israeli conflict, the book has stood the test of the last six weeks fairly well, though Mr. Kimche did not positively anticipate such a war or the most fundamental aspects of its outcome—the ruthless use of the Arab oil "weapon" and, as a consequence, an almost inevitable shift in the balance of power within the region towards Arab hands.

Following the surprise and strength of the Arab attack last month, this has arisen almost logically from the geopolitical situation as Mr. Kimche has appraised it. Because of the vital importance of Middle East oil, the resolution of the conflict can only take place in the "framework of superpower and world interests."

He points out that the struggle between Zionism and Arab Nationalism was born in the context of Great Power conflict. More originally Mr. Kimche emphasises, but perhaps exaggerates, oil as an essential consideration at the very outset, quoting Lord Balfour as saying, "I do not care under what system we keep the oil, but I am clear that it is all-important that it should be available." For his examination of the crucial 1917-23 period the author has had the private papers and

advice of Lord Sif, who had been Weizmann's political secretary, to draw upon, to supplement notes of his own conversations with Weizmann, Sir Leon Simon and David Ben-Gurion.

This leads him to highlight the closeness of the collaboration between Weizmann and the British Government—which led Ben-Gurion to accuse him of treason to Zionism in 1936. On the Arab side he has researched Palestinian records in the Israeli State Archives and plundered the memories of former collaborators of the Mufti of Jerusalem. He concludes (something which few Israelis would agree with) that Palestinian nationalism emerged early as an independent force. A very lively and interesting analysis of the "Meir era" has been aided by sources in the heart of the Government machine which are quoted but not named. Particularly fascinating is his account of how at the time of the 1966-67 recession Israel was facing a psychological and a leadership crisis as well as an economic one. Because of his insistence on bilinguality, facts about the situation Mr. Kimche was eased out of the editorship of the Jewish Observer.

While his distaste for Mrs. Golda Meir and the caucus which runs the Israeli Labour Party is clear, his admiration for Gen. Moshe Dayan as man capable of thinking in terms of long perspectives and with flexibility emerges strongly. Within the wider theme, his examination of the interplay between the U.S. and Israel over the past six years is skilfully reconstructed. It has been a game in which Mrs. Meir usually scored over Washington.

As for a real Arab-Jewish dialogue, he concludes bleakly: "I can see no hope of that for the present; only a slow awakening and a few men who over the years are prepared to pioneer the New Deal between Arab and Jew in Israel, between Palestinians and Israel, not had the private papers and

## Children's books

## Snails and squeals

BY JAMES ROOSE-EVANS

In the main, children who are in the habit of reading will find their own way among books. But the adult wanting to give a book for Christmas may well feel overwhelmed by the variety of choice available. Out of some 50 books I have here selected a few that are good value for money and some that will provide excellent stocking-fillers.

The best buy for three- to five-year-olds is the John Masefield series, written and brightly illustrated by John Hargreaves. Published by Faber at 20p each and pocket size. Recommended for older children are the Piped Piper story books published by Methuen at 50p each. Especially enjoyable are *The Secret Road* (by Elizabeth (Wombles) Beresford, and a football yarn by Michael Hardcastle, United.

Picture books need to be full of detail, pictures in which a child can wander, slowly identifying. Certainly Alan Aldridge's *The Butterfly Ball* (Jonathan Cape £1.95) is crammed with ingenious detail. How children will react to these hallucinogenic Technicolor nightmares I cannot judge, although bookellers report that the book is selling like hot cakes to adults.

To my mind Aldridge's animals resemble the effigies of the famous in Madame Tussaud's, lifeless. They lack the intimacy of Beatrix Potter's pictures which stemmed from an intimate knowledge of the animals she painted.

More endearing and magical books. All About Simon and his Grandmother by Elizabeth Roberts (Collins £1.95) is a bumper book of stories about Who Wanted to Fly (Evans £1.50) while N. M. Bodecker's

it's Baining, Said John Twain (Macmillan, £1.50), worthy of Kate Greenaway, should enchant all ages, for although these are Danish Nursery Rhymes they have the humour and freshness of an Edward Lear.

For the super stocking-filler try Richard Scarry's two-in-one *Great Big Mystery Book* (Collins, £1.25), with its pictures of Sam Cat and Dudley Pig, super detectives, romping across the pages.

Another good buy is Ronald Dahl's *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator* (George Allen and Unwin, £1.25).

"What do men from Mars eat? Why, Mars bars, of course!" may not be the kind of humour to appeal to the more intellectual critic, but it is exactly right for the young who love puns and word games. Mr. Dahl, the Lewis Carroll of the Space Age, also adds to a small boy's vocabulary such splendid expressions as: flocculated alive, pulpsified, luvvified!

For factually minded children Wayland Press have added to their excellent Sentinel Series, *The Crusaders*, and *The Samurai* (Wayland, £1.50 each).

For reading aloud I would recommend the following four books. All About Simon and his Grandmother by Elizabeth Roberts (Collins £1.95) is a bumper book of stories about Who Wanted to Fly (Evans £1.50) while N. M. Bodecker's

year-old grandmother. Lively and also instructive and in a last type, that encourages the year-old to read or, come we can ramer is a uora son for younger readers. A luted woy (auore meus 1.20) is about a Jamaican and his pet bull calf. Also by Deutsch is *Roddie Sudba* (lastest book, inside the W (1.45) anour four chine who live in a back street of Y it is a simple story, written with a marvellous economy and with which I think most child of seven and up will ident it is full of everyday events, yet touched with the immedi of things experienced for a first time. Sally Long, a lustrator, has enhanced book with splendid drawings

And lastly, for a wet aftern snug by the fire, another eng story from Margaret Baker, *Fricks Way* (Meth £1.40). Mrs. Baker's books are a deservedly popular app Each of them centres on a fan of children who learn to with animals, with people, w the elements, and with one other, usually in the setting an old country house, en rented for the holidays or, hets, where Mum takes a housekeeper to an eccentric lady. For the only child y earns for brothers and sis or for large families who recognise themselves, th books are exactly right. A glow with happiness and I w rate Fricks Way along Elizabeth Enright's *Spiden* for Two.

## Cult of the horse

BY MICHAEL THOMPSON-NOEL

The Brigadier by John Hisslop; Secker and Warburg, £3.00; 212 pages

The History of The Derby Stakes by Roger Mortimer; Michael Joseph, £8.75; 764 pages

The Encyclopedia of the Horse edited by Lt-Col. C. E. G. Hope and G. N. Jackson; Pelham Books, £7.50; 336 pages

The Complete Book of the Horse edited by Elwyn Hartley Edwards and Candida Geddes; Ward Lock, £3.95; 318 pages

Queen of the Turf by Quintin Gilbey; Arthur Barker, £2.25; 160 pages

Hounds of Britain by Jack Tverster Lloyd; A. and C. Black, £2.75; 125 pages

Among the numberless host of books, biographies, annuals, manuals, guides and volumes of instruction devoted to the cult of horses that are published each year, only a few rise above a level of breathless incompetence. Still, exceptions prove the rule, and *The Brigadier* by John Hisslop is outstandingly good. It tells how Hisslop and his wife, with only limited capital, set up a stud to breed a winner of the 2,000 Guineas. They not only bred one but produced in Brigadier Gerard one of the greatest racehorses of the century.

Mr. Hisslop wonderfully describes the racing scene, and nowhere is the story more tense nor the writing more fair than when he is describing the Brigadier's sole defeat (in an 18-race career) by Roberto at York.

*Derby Stakes* by Roger Mortimer is a splendid updating of one of the finest racing books ever written. Year by year, from the first Derby in 1780, shortly after Havoc. The dominant bitch first had her rival and the world's greatest ostrich race. Full details—runners, winners, betting—are provided.

## Future imperatives

BY CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

The New Service Society by Russell Lewis; Longman, £3.25; 179 pages

One of the few safe generalisations in economics nowadays is that, as a society becomes richer, services account for an ever increasing proportion of the Gross National Product, and the shares of agriculture and manufacturing decline.

What economists group to general services covers a very mixed bag of activities: transport, utilities, trade, finance, insurance, education, medicine, tourism, entertainment, and government services. As we become more affluent, there is a limit to the amount of food and drink we can consume, and even to the number of domestic electrical appliances we can cram into our living quarters; but the demand for services of all kinds seems to be capable of almost infinite extension.

At first sight, this seems paradoxical, because it looks as if services, which are bought and sold by human beings, are bound to become more expensive as human beings earn ever higher pay, and this should logically cause demand to fall. In domestic life, the oldest kind of demand has in fact happened. But in most other cases, either services have become cheaper as mechanisation has increased the productivity of the people who perform them, or education and training have made more purely human services more intrinsically valuable. One only has to look around the City to see both processes at work.

As Mr. Lewis points out in his book, the nature of this process has been widely misunderstood, since economic growth has tended to be equated mainly with the production of more goods, both by its advocates and by its detractors. If we assume that the growth of GNP is going to

times, betting—is provided, but this is far more than a work of reference; it is first-class social history, and with his uniquely understanding grasp of what racing is about Mr. Mortimer gathers in a sparkling catch of heroes and villains. Both *The History of The Derby Stakes* and *The Complete Book of the Horse* are tall, wide and handsome. *The Encyclopedia of the Horse* alone has 123 contributors. Both are sumptuously illustrated and their publication has been backed up by large print runs and big orders.

*Queen of the Turf* is an adequate account of the life and time of the Hon. Dorothy Paget, a twenty-stone eccentric who was a guarantee of loved horses and gambling as much as she hated men. Crash through the crowd to lead in and Tally Ho!

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Among the numberless host of books, biographies, annuals, manuals, guides and volumes of instruction devoted to the cult of horses that are published each year, only a few rise above a level of breathless incompetence. Still, exceptions prove the rule, and *The Brigadier* by John Hisslop is outstandingly good. It tells how Hisslop and his wife, with only limited capital, set up a stud to breed a winner of the 2,000 Guineas. They not only bred one but produced in Brigadier Gerard one of the greatest racehorses of the century.

Mr. Hisslop wonderfully describes the racing scene, and nowhere is the story more tense nor the writing more fair than when he is describing the Brigadier's sole defeat (in an 18-race career) by Roberto at York.

*Derby Stakes* by Roger Mortimer is a splendid updating of one of the finest racing books ever written. Year by year, from the first Derby in 1780, shortly after Havoc. The dominant bitch first had her rival and the world's greatest ostrich race. Full details—runners, winners, betting—are provided.

One of the few safe generalisations in economics nowadays is that, as a society becomes richer, services account for an ever increasing proportion of the Gross National Product, and the shares of agriculture and manufacturing decline.

What economists group to general services covers a very mixed bag of activities: transport, utilities, trade, finance, insurance, education, medicine, tourism, entertainment, and government services. As we become more affluent, there is a limit to the amount of food and drink we can consume, and even to the number of domestic electrical appliances we can cram into our living quarters; but the demand for services of all kinds seems to be capable of almost infinite extension.

At first sight, this seems paradoxical, because it looks as if services, which are bought and sold by human beings, are bound to become more expensive as human beings earn ever higher pay, and this should logically cause demand to fall. In domestic life, the oldest kind of demand has in fact happened. But in most other cases, either services have become cheaper as mechanisation has increased the productivity of the people who perform them, or education and training have made more purely human services more intrinsically valuable. One only has to look around the City to see both processes at work.

As Mr. Lewis points out in his book, the nature of this process has been widely misunderstood, since economic growth has tended to be equated mainly with the production of more goods, both by its advocates and by its detractors. If we assume that the growth of GNP is going to

## The Provincial Stock Exchanges

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# Cambridge give a fright to Bodgers on frozen pitch

## Mental Health Act 'danger' says NCCL

## Osteopaths call for NHS recognition

## U.K. ECONOMIC INDICATORS

[illegible]

## Young Liberals campaign for pupil power

# Power cuts may be worse than last year

This warning has come from officials in the electricity supply industry who are concerned that not all businessmen appreciate the impossibility of repeating the sophisticated rota of cuts which was into operation in the 1972 emergency. During the miners' strike the engineers—who are now banning out-of-hours work—operated an extremely flexible rota system under which many vital services were given complete immunity from cuts. The main aim was to protect the consumer, most of them industrial customers, most of them with continuous processes, where also given uninterrupted supplies in exchange for reducing their consumption by up to 50 per cent. of its normal level.

connections—but it will inevitably be much coarser than the previous system, enlarging the areas which are cut at any one time.

## Removed

Last year, the published rota of cuts made a highly accurate prediction of when each area would be disconnected. Its accuracy was partly due to the engineers' efforts, and partly to the fact that the Central Electricity Generating Board met its aim of burning less coal by imposing 10 per cent.—and later 15 per cent.—disconnections throughout the day on a three-hour rota. Companies

## Isolating

Some of this unpredictability would be removed if the Government told the CEEB to conserve coal. Disconnections—probably of 10 per cent. throughout the day—would then be inevitable, but the consumer could tell with some certainty when he would be hit. Because the level of peak demand would be 10 per cent. lower, the CEEB might be able to set by at all times of day in spite of the disconnection resulting from the engineers' action. But this would not make the rota more sophisticated, and many consumers who were immune from the 1972 cuts would be affected.

## Hospitals

Most Area Boards have already adopted a plan allowing for far fewer protected customers than on the 1972 lists. The schedule of vital and immune services has been pruned of hospitals, docks, postal installations, sewerage works and all but the most important airports. Mines, railway traction and town gas plants are among the categories still included. According to the Ministry, "The plants and vital services will vary slightly from one Board to another, depending on the extent to which they can switch by remote control. Several Boards, including London, Yorkshire and the North East, have particularly sophisticated switchgear and will be able to operate the disconnection remotely from their control rooms, rather than by hand at the plants elsewhere in the country."

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# The Marketing Scene

RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING

## One big headache of a boom

ANTONY THORNCROFT, MARKETING EDITOR

1973 HAS been the most extraordinary year ever in the history of recruitment advertising—a year of unparalleled demand, of agencies set up by the dozens, of agencies that have discovered that in some cases these cannot respond in staff and facilities during a tight demand situation. There has been a swing back to the reassurance of the guard, and Fordham can claim: "we are currently making three presentations a week for new business as against the more usual one a week."

But even though recruitment advertising has become vital to the well being of companies, the budgets have been forced higher in the quest for employees. This still remains the responsibility of the personnel rather than the advertising director, and there is less mobility of accounts than is common in consumer advertising. Even so this week Charles Barker, the second largest agency in this field, can report the gain of STC's recruitment advertising, valued at £150,000 a year, a sizeable account by any standard.

In all recruitment advertising, taking in all the local ads, will probably be worth £100m. this year and has almost doubled in the past 12 months. It now seems certain that companies exaggerated the last downturn in the economy, sacked too many staff, and are suffering from a decision not to recruit and train new graduates. At the moment there is a desperate shortage of the young professional man with about two years' experience, and companies are holding on to good people by paying them more, despite the Government's restrictions.

So what with the lack of mobility and extra demand on one side, and the shortage of media on the other, the recruitment agencies are finding it much more costly to place personnel for their clients. A great deal depends upon the reputation of the companies—an employer with a poor reputation that was paying below the local wage level before the boom faces a much higher recruitment bill than one with a good reputation. And there are variations between different jobs. On the professional level while it can cost 300 per cent more to find an accountant this winter a marketing man's price has only increased



Ken Fordham of Austin Knight, left, and Tony Moxon of Leo Burnett

by around 30 per cent. And as general media shortage has forced the recruitment agencies to be more innovative in their approach. When Black and Decker urgently needed 250 workers in West London, and it was hard to get into the media in time, Austin Knight distributed 60,000 leaflets, used posters and a loud speaker van touring the neighbourhood, took a shop in the local High Street, had open days and tours of the factory to humanise the company, and got most of the quota in 10 days.

Charles Barker has sent caravans around council estates, and called on Graham Hill in its campaign for traffic wardens. He appeared at a Press conference, and in the advertisements and following literature. Prospective wardens can also phone in to hear a recorded Hill message. At Leo Burnett, one of the few big creative agencies to have rapidly built up a recruitment side, managing director Tony Moxon has spent £70,000 on television in London and the south east to gain workers for Ford.

"When there is a shortage of personnel you must use more intrusive advertising," says Moxon, who often employs television spots as reminders to interested viewers to follow up newspaper advertisements.

There have also been recruitment agencies taking time on London Commercial radio, with mixed results. Charles Barker, for one, has been disappointed in its effectiveness in recruit-

ing postmen. But television, and to a lesser extent radio, are no real answer to the newspaper shortage. They tend to be unselective in their respondents, and television is as fully booked as most newspapers—as well as being more expensive.

For recruitment advertising is a very specialised area, with its own rules. Although a more creative and pictorial approach might work in local newspapers, it does not seem to be as effective at the executive level as the precisely worded advertisement giving a detailed job specification, plus a few carrots, but usually not details of salary, since few companies like their existing staff to know what they can afford to offer a newcomer. For as Fordham says "an advertisement which attracts 100 enquiries is probably bad ad. It is costly to process the 99 people you do not want."

Advertisements for managers should be accurately written and carefully placed in the media, with a reputation as the shop window for each profession. One costly insertion in an expensive newspaper which attracts a new marketing director is worth a dozen in less expensive media producing a host of enquiries from second rate personnel. For this reason some of the best-known creative agencies that saw recruitment as an easy diversification in the late '60s have suffered as much in this buoyant year as in a slump—they have tended to crack under the pressure.

So after Austin Knight and Charles Barker the other experienced agencies, such as Rileys and Whites and PA and MSL, have the edge over the all-purpose agencies. The newcomers that have thrived, like Burnetts and JWT, have had to adapt to the different rules. John Sterling, who heads JWT recruitment, says "here the creative side is not the most important factor: that is the job itself." He also thinks the main agency must back up its recruitment wing with cash-provide welcome relief.

and talent—some have allowed them to sink through neglect.

Some of the activities of the more recent agencies in this very tight year have upset the old hands. Laurie Grant of Osborne Grant has been shocked at agencies buying pages on a regular basis in the Daily Telegraph and then broking out the space to desperate employers in an effort to gain their account. "All this does is lead to a rat race," he says. But it has certainly given some impetus to the movement of accounts.

Not all the changes this year have been so bad. Tony Moxon says "we've done more research in the past three months than in the previous two years. In one case this led to a campaign which tried to rid a company of its bare and fire reputation. Companies want to find out about their image and why people are leaving." He also reckons that the larger companies, who are perhaps more scrupulous in obeying the law, have lost out to their smaller competitors. The media that have benefited from having space available will doubtless hold on to some of the extra recruitment advertising, especially if the boom and the newspaper shortage lasts long enough for them to build up a reputation among job seekers. The same applies to the technical journals and the provincial Press, and this shake up in the media is no bad thing.

### Suggesting schemes

Companies have also discovered that the cheapest, and probably the most effective way of recruiting staff is through the recommendation of existing employees, and some agencies are suggesting schemes to their clients involving a scale of cash rewards for such introductions. The other main beneficiaries at the top end of the market have been, of course, the head hunters, although even these use advertisements quite frequently to widen their nets.

The length of the boom depends upon the economy. Anthony Snow of Charles Barker reckons that an unemployment total of 750,000 is the line between good and bad times for the recruitment agencies. At the moment only the media shortage, made worse this week by another reduction in pages by the main market place, the Telegraph, is holding back growth. But the curious gap between the private scepticism of businessmen about the economy expanding in 1974 and their apparently insatiable demand for labour cannot continue much longer. For some agencies a slackening in the pressure from clients will be a relief.



### Panto price cuts

THIS IS Lesley Palmer, star of the pantomime and the Stockport Co-op is spending £300,000 on an advertising, sales promotion and store merchandising campaign linked up with the three top theatrical impresarios—Bernard Delfont and Tom Arnold, Howard and Wyndham, and Triumph Theatre Productions—in a combined retail-theatrical campaign which must be new to British retailing.

From December 3 anyone spending £1 in a Co-op store will receive a voucher which will entitle them to 10p off the price of a seat at any of nearly 60 pantomimes on show this Christmas. In all 10m. vouchers have been printed. In addition, the Co-op is spending £300,000 on an advertising, sales promotion and store merchandising campaign linked up with the three top theatrical impresarios—Bernard Delfont and Tom Arnold, Howard and Wyndham, and Triumph Theatre Productions—in a combined retail-theatrical campaign which must be new to British retailing.

The Co-op also benefits from personal appearances from the pantomime stars. There is also a £30,000 colouring contest with 400 family week-ends for four in London as prizes, including, of course, a visit to a show. A.T.

### General auction

Fordham is a pessimist. He sees no immediate downturn in demand but yes the general caution about vertising prospects after midwinter. At the moment Austin Knight is still

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### MARKETING MAPS

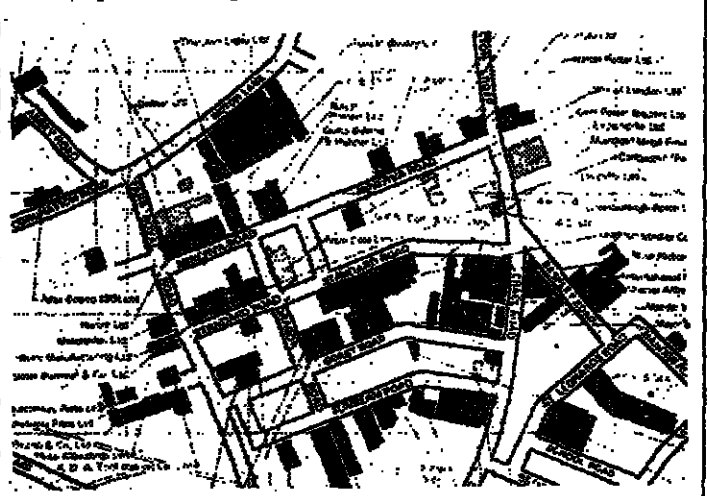
## Guiding salesmen's footsteps

BY MICHAEL RINES

A NEW marketing aid introduced this week could not have come at a more opportune moment. With petrol likely to be in restricted supply for a long time to come, anything that reduces the distances travelled by salesmen cannot fail to be a winner. But this is only one of the many

marketing benefits offered by a series of industrial maps produced by a partnership called Market Location in association with the Institution of Sales Engineers.

That the maps should make their appearance at this critical moment is one of the few things about the maps that are the result of chance, for it is more than a year and a half since work was first started on them. In fact, although only the Greater London area and a slice of the industrial Midlands has so far been covered the amount spent is already into six figures. And



as many as 50 staff are now engaged in surveying, checking data, and plotting the positions of manufacturers throughout the U.K.

Based on the Ordnance Survey, the system uses seven inch to the mile maps on which manufacturers' premises are colour-coded to show which of ten different categories of industrial activity they are engaged in.

But what is equally, if not more useful, are the two sets of indices that go with the maps. These show the name, address, telephone number, grid reference, product coding, number of male and female employees, and where applicable the name of the parent company: it does not

take a genius to realise the potential value of such information.

The original inspiration for the system came from John Fenton, the director-general of the Institution of Sales Engineers. It was picked up by Maurice Hynett, a 37-year-old ex naval officer, who has also had experience in aviation sales, plus a spell as a staff officer in the Ministry of Technology. He now has two partners who look after the selling and financial side of the business while he looks after the production of the maps. Great care is taken to ensure

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Michael Rines is editor of Marketing.

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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29 1973

## Unresolved deadlock

THE FAILURE of yesterday's search for alternative sources of fuel, in this country as elsewhere, is not the only setback to the search for a settlement of the energy dispute. The search for a settlement of the energy dispute is a long and arduous process, and the failure of yesterday's search is a setback to the search for a settlement of the energy dispute. The search for a settlement of the energy dispute is a long and arduous process, and the failure of yesterday's search is a setback to the search for a settlement of the energy dispute.

## Immediate issue

Some moderate members of the executive, apparently, are now more ready than they were earlier to put the matter to a ballot of members. The fact that the majority are still against this course is probably based on the calculation that, as time goes by, there will be a growth in the number of miners prepared to convert a ban on overtime into an all-out strike. It seems unlikely at present that the executive will meet again to consider the question of a ballot until mid-December.

## Secure future

The loss of coal output, at a time when oil supplies are also being sharply reduced, will undoubtedly have a damaging effect on the economy. There may be a few miners who are not troubled by this prospect. The majority more probably will be. The fact that the majority are still against this course is probably based on the calculation that, as time goes by, there will be a growth in the number of miners prepared to convert a ban on overtime into an all-out strike. It seems unlikely at present that the executive will meet again to consider the question of a ballot until mid-December.

## The Algiers conditions

STATEMENTS ISSUED at Arab summit meetings have often been strong on rhetoric and weak on substance, but it would be rash to assume that the Declaration that was issued in Algiers yesterday can be taken lightly. It is true that the declaration omits all reference to the oil weapon — it was left to the Arab League Secretary General shortly afterwards to emphasise that the link is to be maintained between the supply of oil to a country and that country's support of the Arab position. The heads of state have instead chosen to draw international attention to the two fundamentals of the Middle East situation which have often been glossed over in recent years as the diplomats have struggled to find common ground in other less emotive areas. These two fundamentals, the Algiers declaration insists, are the two "conditions" which must be fulfilled if there is to be a peace, and so, by implication, a sheathing of the oil weapon.

The first condition is the immediate withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab territories occupied in the Six Day War of 1967, "especially Jerusalem." The point is clear: Jerusalem was annexed by Israel shortly after the June War, and the Israelis appear totally committed that it may never again be divided. Yet Arab and Muslim sentiment on this issue is equally strong, and the presence of King Feisal of Saudi Arabia as the most significant figure at Algiers, where he is thought to have insisted on this condition, can only be a reminder of the difficulties that lie in the way of a settlement.

The second of the Algiers conditions is the restoration of the "national rights of the Palestinian people." Here, too, the Arab leaders are serving a reminder that the dispute with Israel is no mere argument about territorial borders or a precarious home ceasefire but something which for their vitally important elections. It may be well into the political and social struggle of the region. On Monday, the summit had already tried to months of hard wrangling ahead, ensure that the Palestinians of the could not again be left out of world energy crisis.

## King Cotton counter-attacks against the 'miracle fibres'

BY KEN GOFTON

COTTON has been dearer this year than at any time since the U.S. civil war, when it reached a dollar a lb. The questions that bald statement raises about the economic situation in the 1960s we can leave to the historians. But for 1973 there are important implications for world farming and the international textile industry. The key question—obscured to some extent by the general boom in commodity prices, in the face of shortages and speculation—is whether there is an underlying reaction by the public, away from "miracle" man-made fibres and back to natural fibres such as cotton and wool.

This would not explain entirely the near-trebling in little more than a year in the Liverpool "A" index for American-type middle grade cottons. There have been several factors, including the fact that world stocks of cotton, although rising, have been below the five months' supply level which many in the industry consider comfortable. Because of this, the market has been more sensitive than it might have been to the news of floods in Pakistan and the U.S., and unexpected large purchases of cotton by China.

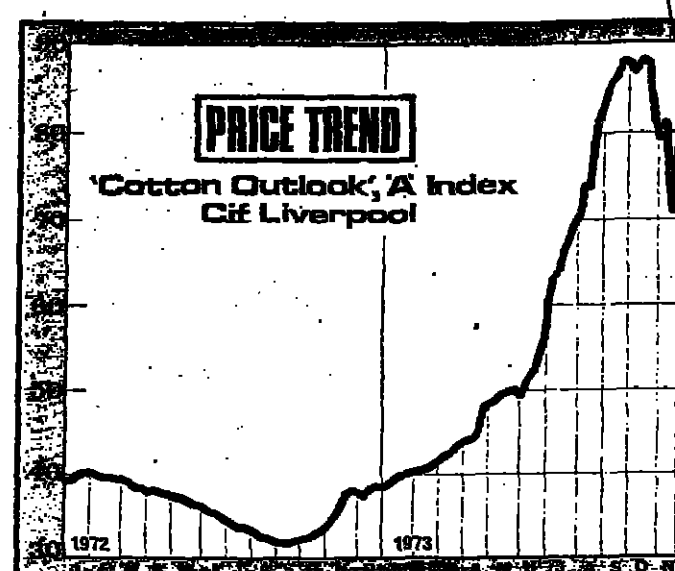
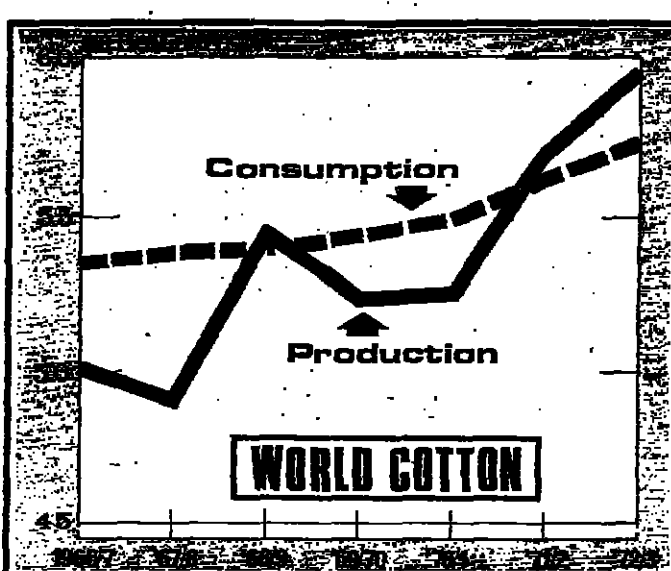
Other profitable crops, such as soybeans, provide an alternative use of land to many farmers, which underlines their need for good prices. And many textile mills have been prevented from reacting to high prices by switching production to other raw materials, because of the coincidental shortage of synthetics, such as nylon and polyester.

## The public's attitude

But the public's attitude must be taken into account. The International Institute for Cotton, funded by about a dozen of the leading cotton-growing countries, but with only about a tenth of the budget of the better-known International Wool Secretariat, commissioned an independent market study in the U.K. recently, and is almost hugging itself with glee at some of the findings.

What consumers had to say was striking. The comments quoted range from "I love long cotton things... they make me feel lovely and floating and thin" to the more prosaic "cotton always looks clean and fresh, makes you feel good." On synthetics, the researchers came up with such comments as "You can smell a man who wears nylon shirts miles away" and "man-made stuff is revolting... it's hot and sticky and makes you perspire."

Of course, it can be argued, the cotton lobby would have a lot of comments from which to pick and choose after an exercise of this sort. But the general conclusion, putting the



results alongside those of earlier studies, is that the image of cotton, which has slipped badly now that the "first excitement of innovation" has passed. The image of cotton has improved from that of a cheap and simple fibre, suitable only for the market has been more sensitive than it might have been to the news of floods in Pakistan and the U.S., and unexpected large purchases of cotton by China.

The importance of this has started to show in the market place. Until quite recently, more than half the shirts sold in Britain were made of nylon—the result, certainly, of astute marketing by the fibre makers, and perhaps the British male's habit of leaving the buying of his clothes to his wife, who would have an eye on nylon's easy-care properties. Now nylon's share has fallen to about a third, with most of the rest shared between cotton and polyester/cotton blends. Similarly, nylon sheets appear to have fallen from favour.

More detailed figures for the German market from the IIC suggest that between 1971 and 1972, cotton was still losing ground in some areas, such as men's outerwear and blankets, but was making gains in many other sectors. Cotton's share of the men's underwear market rose by 3.1 per cent to 91.6 per cent, and of women's underwear by 3.7 per cent to 64.2 per cent. In shirts, the increase was from 55 per cent to 59.2 per cent, and in women's nightwear, from 28.7 per cent to 33.5 per cent. In Japan, where the swing back to cotton was first noticed, it is claimed that cotton's share of the total textile fibre market increased by 6 per cent to 49.3 per cent between 1971 and 1972.

It would be naive to imagine that as a result of these developments, synthetics fibres now will be routed from the field. There are several factors to take into account, apart from the marketing skills of the chemical giants, and the obvious point



that world textile demand is too large to-day to be met by cotton alone.

For a start, there are many products, such as women's rights, low-priced tufted carpets, or artificial furs, where man-made fibres offer technical advantages. Second, there is no such thing as a perfect textile fibre for every application. The struggle to improve fibre properties will go on, and will affect the commercial opportunities for each type. Wool's standing has been enhanced by the recent development of a treatment to make it machine-washable.

On the other hand, a potentially very important development was announced at the beginning of November by ICI Fibres—the first of a family of "epitropic fibres" which, embedded with carbon particles, can conduct electricity and so overcome static problems in tufted carpets. Other epitropics are on the way, promises ICI—including

possibly, fibres that can shed water and others that can absorb moisture (which could be a real breakthrough, bearing in mind that it is the inability of synthetics to absorb that is often blamed for their lack of comfort).

Cotton is also making progress. There have been "easy care" and "non-iron" treatments in the past but they have depended upon the use of resin which has stiffened the fabric and reduced its wearing properties.

## Extreme example

Now, the Shirley Institute in Manchester claims, that techniques have been refined and are close to the point of commercial exploitation for giving cotton easy-care treatment without adversely affecting its

cotton, which is grown in at 70 different countries, all which will want to expand contract their production to their interests. There will be times of shortage in the future as in the past, when prices were too high for the comfort consumers, and times of overproduction, when prices fell disastrously for farmers.

However, it might be argued that cotton's position is fundamentally different to-day in two respects. One is the point already mentioned, of whether the consumer now has a better option of the fibre. Second, it is reasonable to assume that the synthetic fibres, which were launched as highly profitable novelties, probably have completed their downward progress towards a mundane commodity status. There will be price fluctuations, of course, depending upon the balance between supply and demand at any time, but the underlying price trend may well be upwards, under the influence of oil.

## Consumer preference

These are hopeful developments for cotton, although hardly a basis themselves for rushing out to buy shares in Lancashire textile companies. Consumer preference for cotton could have a effect on the balance between the woven and knitted sectors of textiles, and that what was at stake was whether industry and consumers were now sufficiently convinced of wool's advantages to make a long commitment, through a long commitment, towards making the output of woolen goods in 1973 consist of 561m. yards of cotton, and 514m. yards of man-made fibre blends.

Moreover, in spite of British Government pledges, it believes in a strong home industry and will take steps to avoid disruption, it seems likely that imports of all types of textiles will continue to ease. Apart from anything else, next month should see the conclusion of negotiations on a new international multi-fibre agreement, which aims at the liberalisation of world textile trade. The common aim is also seeking to expand with the Mediterranean countries and the East European bloc, which also implies increased imports of textiles.

Better prospects for cotton in other words, means a better deal for the cotton growers, both the grower and the textile industries. Ideal situations are rarely as simple as this, but a free market, however, with outcome of the economic tug-of-war between prices and production, it proved impossible to hold the international coffee choices open to growers, independent together for long. The trials and consumers, remain task is clearly impossible with as unpredictable as ever.

## MEN AND MATTERS

## Getting it right at the wrong moment?

"It's either the end of Western capitalism as we know it or the markets are close to their bottom levels," said Mark St. Giles, who has chosen a sad moment to howl out as managing director of the Jessel Britannia unit trust group. Doubtly sad because a few weeks back he was urging investors, via advertisements, that when the 20-Share Index was around 430 it was a good time to buy his units. St. Giles was not, of course, alone in his miscalculation. But then he is judged by high standards.

He joined the Jessel unit trusts as investment manager in 1969, became managing director a year later and since then has been the most obviously rising star of the unit trust business. Bar a failure with the Jessel Australian Fund, the record of the 14 trusts has been outstanding. This despite St. Giles' admission of "being so wrong over the last two or three weeks" need not change. For he will not give up the investment role, remaining responsible for all the group's portfolios. What he hands on are the administrative functions, covering profitability, strategy, new products, advertising and the like. This will give him time for his other Jessel group activities, particularly Maple Macowards and the European interests.

At 32, St. Giles says he has no present intention of ever leaving unit trusts altogether for more glamorous investment banking roles. He enjoys running trusts. And both St. Giles and his successor as Jessel Britannia managing director, candidates against the official

Peter Potts, an ex-J. Walter Thompson, ex-Save and Prosper marketing man, reckon that investors have at last started to understand how to get the best out of unit trusts.

St. Giles wishes they would go less for equity linked life policies and more for straight unit saving schemes, but the tendency to buy at top and sell at the bottom is changing. Potts reckons that compared with a "Buy at the Bottom" campaign he ran in 1970, the one he has been running recently has got a much greater response. Which is fine for everyone, providing, as St. Giles says, there really is a bottom.

## Over a barrel

Sheikh Yamani is now referred to in some quarters as Sheikh Yamoneyourlife.

## Home and away

If Dick Taverne goes ahead with the idea of putting up rival candidates to the Labour Party in the next election—and there have been reports that he is proposing to fight Anthony Wedgwood Benn's not invulnerable seat—he could be running into trouble in Strasbourg. Yesterday the Labour Party national executive made a "strong protest" about Taverne to the Socialist International, under whose umbrella the Socialist parties operate at the European Parliament. It feels that the Socialist International attitude to Taverne "may well change" when it learns that he proposes to put up candidates against the official

Labour Party representatives, and it looks as though there will be an attempt to bar him from the Socialist group at Strasbourg.

## Maxwell moves up at ABP

With profits of almost £1m. behind him last year, Sir Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre, chairman of Associated Book Publishers, has chosen a happy note on which to resign. He has had his problems over the past 10 years, since he chose to merge ABP with Sweet and Maxwell in 1963. The merger was essentially defensive—ABP having survived a bid by the late Howard Samuel, and Sweet and Maxwell also considering themselves vulnerable. But, like many other mergers, it took some time to sort out, and pre-tax profits took a hammering from the £403,000 level in 1964—the first full year of operation—to £298,000 in 1967, before the group's reorganisation began to take effect.

The oddity of the present situation is that Crosthwaite-Eyre, at 60, is three years younger than Maurice Maxwell, the man who is taking over. But that Maxwell should get the job is not otherwise surprising. His side of the merger, in management terms, has come out well on top; Maxwell himself has been vice-chairman since the merger, and since 1968 the managing director, Peter Allsop, and his deputy, Dennis Alcock, have both been Sweet and Maxwell men.

Maxwell, the fifth generation descendant of Alexander Maxwell, who first took the company into publishing law books in 1811, says the rationalisation

of the group has been largely completed. Individual imprints—Methuen, Eyre, Methuen, Chapman and Hall, Tavistock, Sweet and Maxwell, and Stevens—have been kept, but the different interests reshuffled. Meanwhile, the overseas interests, particularly in Canada, the U.S. and Europe, have been enjoying a buoyant year.

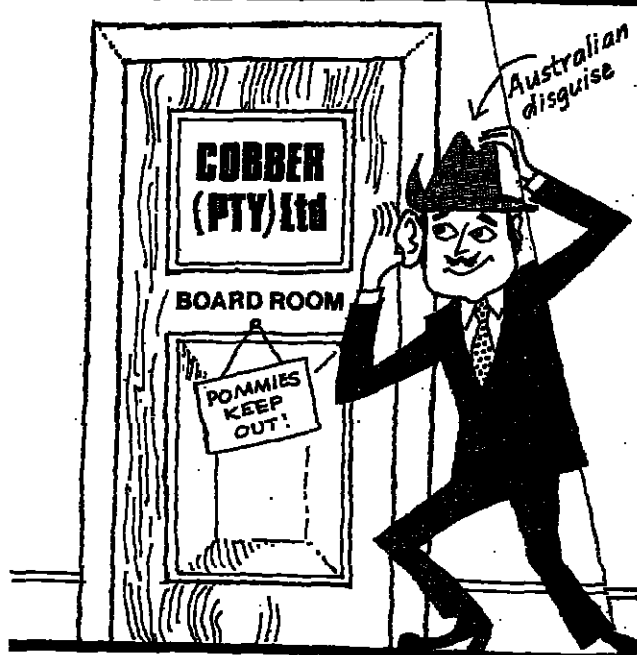
It will now be interesting to see what happens in terms of ownership. The Crosthwaite-Eyre family through trust funds and personal interests have a stake of slightly over 40 per cent in the company, a holding which played a crucial role in fending off the Samuel bid. But while Crosthwaite-Eyre is leaving the Board altogether, his son Antony is now an outside director, presumably with the role of looking after the family interest.

Meantime the other Eyre family interest, the Royal Patent (dating back to 1610), to print the Bible remains in family hands.

## Bleak House reversed

Meeting a gloomy looking legal friend outside the Law Courts, the man inquired what was the matter. "We have had," the barrister said with emotion, "a very complicated trust case. Indeed the complexities of the matter were such as to raise the law to the level of poetry." Then what, asked his friend, was the matter? "The case has been settled out of court and all the money in the trust has been frittered away among the beneficiaries."

Observer



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## MINING NEWS

## Poseidon still has its hopes

BY LESLIE PARKER, MINING EDITOR

THE meeting in Adelaide yesterday of Poseidon the chairman, Professor E. A. Rudd, said it was a "satisfactory" one, and that the company was generally on schedule for a start-up date towards the end of the year when he hoped that three of the company's major operations encompassing nickel, gold and copper would be in full production.

Poseidon's group structure has an under review with the effect of improving corporate efficiency and channelling profits effectively to shareholders. The chairman said that "various proposals are being obtained and a new structure will be made public at the appropriate time."

The Windarra production budget is about \$25m. (\$23m.) The \$30.5m. has been spent or committed. The joint venture eastern mining has contributed out \$8.5m. of the \$18.5m. which it is to spend before Poseidon needs to make further payments.

**Loan funds**

As reported here on November 28, the Australian industry development Corporation has agreed long-term loan funds which will cover Poseidon's anticipated remaining contribution to the project. The IDC is also helping to finance the extra copper operation of the second stage expansion of which has been completed although the company has been commissioning some sections of a plant.

Professor Rudd considered that the stage two fully operational extra would contribute significantly to group profits. It is aimed to raise the daily ore output from 250 to 1,000 tonnes. Capital expenditure amounts to \$2.9m. to date which is within a budget of \$3.3m. Providing favourable tax incentives are sustained and the gold price keeps up the economic life of the 47 per cent owned alluvial Lake View gold operation can be extended. But the chairman warned, about the Australian Government's erosion of mining profitability and said that, judging from the rapidly changing conditions, had ranged in the past 12 months, "we can expect further changes in the next year. Yesterday at \$75p Poseidon staged a small recovery on their recent depressed price."

**MURCHISON AND ANTIMONY**

The latest figures from the government mining engineer show a modest rise in South Africa's antimony concentrate sales during October. Richard reports from Johannesburg. Shipments totalled 3,000 tons against 2,244 tons in September and 1,700 tons in October last year. The 10-month total, however, is still lagging at 24,383 tons compared with 31,950 tons in the same period of 1972.

Production was maintained at 150 tons which means that, after a spell of additions, material has again been withdrawn from the mine.

**CHARTERHOUSE IN U.S. LINK**

Mr. P. S. Slovic, managing director of Charterhouse Japhet, the merchant banking member of the Charterhouse Group, has been appointed to the Board of Reynolds Securities of New York, subject to approval by the New York Stock Exchange, and Charterhouse has acquired an interest in Reynolds.

Reynolds, a publicly quoted securities and investment bank company, has 63 offices throughout North America and Europe and strong connections in the oil and energy industries.

Reynolds, founded as a partnership in 1931, was incorporated as a publicly-held company in 1971. Its shares have been listed on the New York SE since January 1972.

Last year it had a record revenue of \$96.5m. net income of \$3m.

stockpile now estimated to be around 5,000 to 6,000 tons.

The shares of the country's antimony producer Consolidated Murchison have been sagging badly recently. Yesterday they rallied 10p to 30p. The final dividend is due shortly. It is regarded in Johannesburg as unlikely to be exciting owing to the need to conserve funds for capital expenditure and the incidence of tax.

## Nchanga does well

WITH another lift in the metal price received, Zambia's Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines marched forward to higher profits in the September quarter. Despite a higher tax charge, the net surplus of \$31.4m. (\$20.5m.) compares with \$26.7m. in the June period and brings the six month total up to \$38.1m. against \$37m. The total for the year to last March was \$77.2m.

The dividend for the quarter is lifted from K11m. to K15m. making the six month figure \$38m. and K17.5m. respectively. The 1972-73 total was \$35m. The average copper price received in the past quarter was K12.20 a cwt. This goes against K11.037 in the June quarter and makes the six month average K12.20 well up from the K7.43 for the whole of 1972-73.

Copper sales in the September quarter were 101,887 tonnes. Those for the previous three months were 101,707 tonnes and for the last full financial year 445,794 tonnes. Nchanga is 51 per cent owned by the Zambian Government and 49 per cent by Zambia Copper Investments.

In front of the latest profits statement ZCI shares were little changed at 51p. Any response thereto this morning must necessarily be clouded by the continuing uncertainties involved in the Zambian Government's avowed intention to tighten control of the country's copper industry and in particular to impose possible restrictions on dividend remittances.

**SOUTH AFRICA'S GOLD SALES**

In the week to November 28 South Africa continued its recent policy of selling all its newly mined gold on the open market and also disposed of some from reserves, the country's gold holdings falling R4.7m. to R509.2m. As reported elsewhere, the bullion price staged a strong revival yesterday and there was an accompanying sharp improvement in South African gold shares.

**BH SOUTH**

The proposal to change Broken Hill South's name to BH South has now been approved and came into being on November 27.

acquire the issued Ordinary capital of Lloyds and Bolsa International Bank not already owned will close on Friday, December 21. Notices under Section 208(1) of the Companies Act 1948 have been despatched to holders of LBI who have not already accepted the offer giving formal notice of Lloyds Bank's intention to acquire compulsorily their shares.

**BOOTS-FRASER**

It is likely that a formal announcement will be made to-night stating whether Boots proposes to maintain its planned £200m. bid for House of Fraser, despite the reference of the projected link-up to the Monopolies Commission.

The statement is expected to be made following further talks today between the Boots Board and its financial advisers, J. Henry Schroder Wagg. It still appeared probable last night that Boots would wish to continue the project.

With Boots' share price yesterday unchanged at 234p, the bid is worth some 164p for each Fraser share, which last night closed unaltered at 116p.

## BIDS AND DEALS

## MEPC bid for Dollar Land Canadian properties

THE CANADIAN subsidiary of MEPC has made a \$C8.25m. (\$3.5m.) offer to buy the Canadian properties of trouble-torn Dollar Land Holdings, the company which has had its shares suspended for over 3½ years.

In a letter to shareholders, chairman Mr. Hugh Brackett reports MEPC Canadian Properties' offer, which approximates to the gross 1967 valuations of most of the buildings concerned. Although the directors do not need to, they have decided to call a shareholders' meeting on December 14 to discuss the offer, which they support, providing as it would "an opportunity to improve the group's liquidity as a first step towards the re-shaping of the group. The cash sum would for the time being reduce the need for continued external support."

The situation at Dollar Land, which has all its properties in North America and has been rent by Boardroom disputes since 1967, suffered fresh complications recently with the death of Mr. Sol Atlas, the American who has been the company's major shareholder and financial supporter.

Litigation over the group's contract for the sale of its U.S. subsidiaries is now going back to the New York Court to determine the relief to which the purchaser, Brook Realty, is entitled. Last December, the New York Court of Appeals upheld a decision that the sale contract was valid.

Fourteen months ago, the Parliamentary Commissioner—the Ombudsman—criticised the Department of Trade and Industry for failing to investigate the affairs of Dollar Land.

**SCOTIA OFFERS UNCONDITIONAL**

Scotia Investments has declared its offer for Gramgas and Combined Assets Samuel Holdings unconditional after receiving 95.6 per cent. (1,444,581 shares) and 98.7 per cent. (8,072,399 shares) acceptances respectively.

Holders representing 444,444 shares and 6,889,640 shares accepted the cash offer of 55p in each case, which closed on November 28, but the share offer has been extended to December 10.

**CEDAR-ALEXANDER STORES**

The Cedar Holdings offer for the capital of Alexander Stores has been accepted in respect of 222,981 Ordinary shares (99.1 per cent.). Powers are being utilised to acquire compulsorily the remainder of the shares.

**ORIEL FOODS**

Oriel Foods states that as the offer that is expected to be made by RCA Corporation will be on the basis of "cash" which is proposed that no interim dividend will be paid to existing shareholders. Interim results will be published simultaneously with the offer document.

**SPEARS ACCEPTS**

Carwardines' £500,000 bid for Spears Bros and Clark, Bristol bacon curers, sausage and pie manufacturers, has now gone unconditional following acceptance of the offer by well over 90 per cent. of the shareholders.

**ASSOCIATES DEALS**

On November 28 Messel bought 25,000 Shipping Industrial at 525p for associates of Navco Shipping.

On November 27 L. Messel bought 5,000 Shipping Industrial at 525p for associates of Navco Shipping.

De Zoete and Bevan, brokers to Fothergill and Harvey, bought 10,000 Fothergill at 89p for an associate of the company.

Capel-Cure Carden bought 1,000 Dunford and Elliott at 89p for an associate of Dunford. They sold 5,000 Tower Assets at 90p for an associate of Tower.

Wm. Morris bought 1,000 Robert Warner at £12½ and 20,000 at £12½ on behalf of associates of Investment Property Holdings.

**REED INTL. buys Westwood Plastics**

The paper, packaging, printing and publishing group Reed International through its subsidiary Key Turrain—is buying for cash Westwood Plastics, of Margate, Kent. Value of net assets of Westwood is stated to be £175,000.

**SEET LIFTS STAKE IN J. BLACKBURN**

Scottish English and European Textiles has acquired a further 18,550 shares in J. Blackburn, Yorkshire woolen fabric manufacturers, bringing its total shareholding to 99.46 per cent. of the Ordinary.

The consideration is £66,000 in cash. On the basis of accounts to April 30, 1973, the value of assets, and the net profit attributable to the additional interests acquired, were £75,750 and £12,990 respectively.

**NO PROBE**

The Minister of Trade and Consumer Affairs has decided not to refer to the Monopolies Commission the proposed merger of Investment and Property Holdings or Matheson and Co. (together with certain members of the Reeves family) and Robert Warner.

**BILLOVER ACQUIRES TERRY HUNTER**

Total assets and stock of Terry Hunter have been bought from the Receiver, by Billover, which takes over the existing staff and Warner.

**INTL. Timber expands into Belgium**

The Board of International Timber Corporation has reached agreement, subject to Bank of England and Treasury consents, for the acquisition of 76 per cent. of the share capital of Bois Humblot SA, a private company registered in Belgium, for B.Frs.137m. (approximately £15m.).

Humbly has four wholly-owned subsidiaries. Saw mills are operated in Belgium at Marche, Momignies and Lavacherie, and in France at Briennes-sur-Meuse. There are forestry operations in the Belgian and French Ardennes. Merchandising of timber and allied products is conducted at Namur and Turnhout and the production and sale of pellets is at Marche and Lavacherie.

Further details will be given on finalisation of the acquisition. Mr. R. Law, chairman of International Timber, commented: "Like the recent purchase of Rote-Westman in the Netherlands, the acquisition of Humblot is a further step in our planned expansion into the markets of the EEC."

**Sturge forecasts growth**

In a circular to shareholders the directors of John and E. Sturge give their reasons why the Croda International offer is totally unacceptable and should be rejected.

They are forecasting group profits of not less than £700,000 for the current year compared with £708,000 last financial year and say the group is entering a period of strong growth.

They intend to recommend dividends totalling 7.25p (4.725p) gross per share in respect of 1973, ensuring that holders receive a higher income than under the Croda offer, according to Sturge.

"More than half the consideration offered by Croda is in the form of a fixed interest Unsecured Loan stock, unprotected from the effects of inflation. The value of the Croda offer is equivalent to 85p per Sturge share which provides an exit price-earnings ratio of only 10.9 and is considerably less than the asset backing of the Sturge group," the letter adds.

In a rival letter, Croda chairman Mr. Freddie Wood advises Sturge holders "to compare the value of about 85p which we are offering for each of your shares with the market price of 85p before our offer, and with the still lower price which you could expect your shares to stand at now if it had not been for our offer."

**GRE—METROPOLITAN**

At the EGM of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance a resolution to increase the authorised capital was passed.

The new share to which holders of Metropolitan Trust Company are entitled have been admitted to the Official List and the offer for the Ordinary of Metropolitan not already owned is therefore fully unconditional. It remains open.

The cash offer for Ordinary shares of GRE to which accepting holders are entitled was accepted in respect of 74 per cent. of the total to be issued.

More Bids Page 25

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More Bids Page 25

## HOMFRAY &amp; COMPANY LIMITED

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	1973 (52 weeks)	1972 (53 weeks)
	£	£
Sales to External Customers	24,513,285	19,696,834
Profit before Taxation	2,808,544	1,835,233
Profit after Taxation	1,615,866	1,082,165
Dividends	244,032	332,485
Profit Retained	1,371,834	749,680
Rate of Ordinary Dividend	26¼%	25%
Earnings per Share	12.6p	8.6p

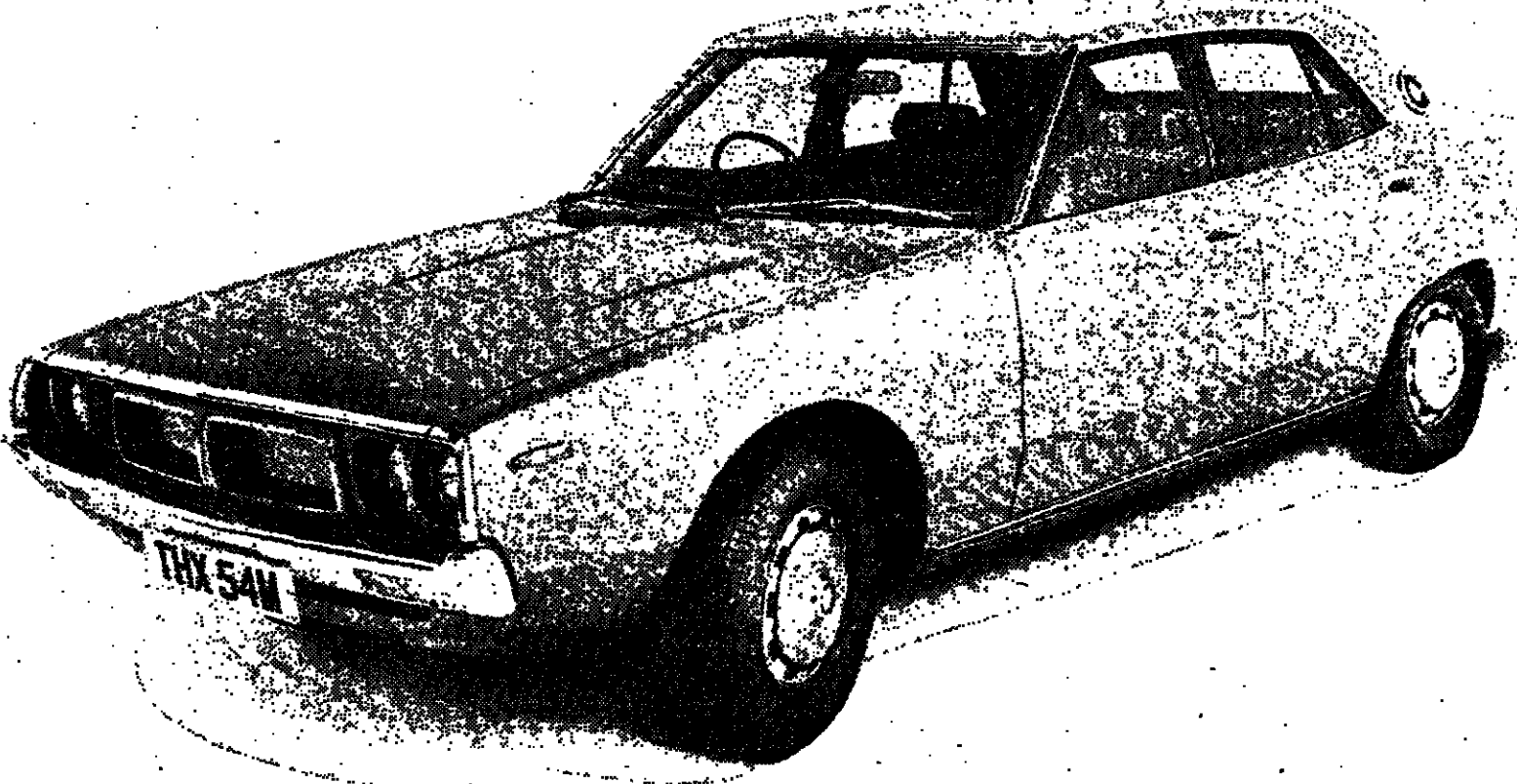
The report and accounts were adopted at the Annual General Meeting held on 28th November, 1973. Copies are obtainable from the Secretary, Homfray & Co. Ltd., Riding Hall Mills, Halifax, Yorkshire HX3 9XG.

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## COMPANY NEWS

# Crittall Hope held back by disputes

ALTHOUGH AHEAD of the comparable 1972 period by 4,000, profits of the Crittall Engineering Group at £200,000 for the six months ended September 30, 1973, are significantly below expectations.

Earnings per 10p share are up to be up from 4.05p to 4.15p, or from 4.2p to 4.31p by diluted.

In general terms, chairman Mr. C. Turling explains that the results of all subsidiaries were well in line with expectations, with the exception of Voyer SS and Tally-Ho.

Tally-Ho experienced delays and overruns in respect of completion of contracts, with the result that a greater proportion of profits will accrue in the second half. For the year the contribution from Voyer is anticipated to be almost in line with that for 1972.

The Crittall-Hope results were substantially below expectations, particularly in respect of the Tally-Ho subsidiary, which has been affected by a number of factors, but mainly by labour difficulties.

In particular, a strike-to-rule and overtime ban had serious and increasing effect on production. Continuing disruption to production is inevitable until the position is resolved by Mr. Turling.

While this disruption has led to a significant increase in cash commitments in respect of stocks and work in progress, the liquid position remains strong. After payment of further £1m. in respect of the 50 per cent. interest in Voyer, cash on deposit as at September 30 exceeded £1m. in addition to which the group has substantial unutilised overdraft facilities.

As a result, the chairman does not consider it probable that the view as to the future progress in the short term.

However, at September 30 there is a hand in value in excess of £200,000, compared with above the level at March 31 and this evidence that demand continues to be buoyant. Unless there is any reversal of this trend, falling in particular from the level of interest rates, restoration of more stable conditions could enable the company to continue its record of progress.

The interim dividend is raised from 1.75p to 2.00p, equivalent to 1.5375p per 10p share. The 1972-73 total was 5p 1d from profits of £424m.

Net tangible assets at September 30, 1973, amounted to £14.33m, equivalent to 90.12p per Ordinary share. They include the investment in Voyer at cost, as opposed to market value which at current prices has a value some £1m. in excess of cost.

comment

9 per cent. pre-tax improvement in Crittall-Hope Engineering adjustments for acquisitions and disposals roughly cancel out) led to please the market yesterday, which dropped the shares by 10p. The more relevant considerations are that, first, the year is now expected to produce a profit for the year; second, the labour problems at Crittall-Hope Ltd. remain unresolved. Finally, an extra £2m. has been tied up in stocks and work in progress which would otherwise have been available for other uses.

Statement Page 10  
See Lex

## Barratt Developments rising trend

At yesterday's annual meeting, Barratt Developments chairman Mr. L. A. Barratt told members that despite current difficulties and uncertainty relating to high interest rates and the mortgage market, the company's first four months of the current year were well up. "I am confident the company's growth will continue," he said.

The group had been unaffected by the reduction in housing starts, initially, which in its case was well up on last year. The group's sales position for new houses was extremely strong, in fact, in the first four months of the year, the company's sales position was well up on last year. The group's sales position for new houses was extremely strong, in fact, in the first four months of the year, the company's sales position was well up on last year.

## Black-Clawson cuts loss

After extraordinary profits of 106,000 (loss £32,000) paper machinery manufacturers principal of the company.

## BIDS AND DEALS—(Cont'd)

# Gardner Merchant Food in Holland

NEGOTIATIONS ARE in their final stages in Rotterdam for Gardner Merchant Food Services, the industrial catering division of the Trust Houses Forte group and Europe's leading specialists in staff catering, to acquire a majority shareholding in Holland's largest catering company—van Hecke Maatschappij.

## Howard & Wyndham drops Maclehosse bid

This move into Holland is a further stage in the development of the Gardner Merchant/Unilever NV partnership formed earlier this year for operations on the Continent. It follows shortly after the partnership launched its first Continental enterprise—Intermove Management Service—in West Germany.

By joining forces with Gardner Merchant/Unilever NV, the Rotterdam-based van Hecke concern is seeking to ensure the development of its business. The company, which produces 30,000 meals a day on average, has just acquired its largest contract in the Rotterdam port complex.

A strong influencing factor in the expansion of the new enterprise will be the identical philosophies of the two organisations in the field of client service, staff welfare and development, along with business expansion.

The van Hecke concern will continue to be managed by its founder, Mr. L. R. van Hecke, over 14 per cent. and had decided it could not increase its operational director. Discussions, which involve no change in the basic operating principles of the Dutch company, are fully management had expressed its

concern over the protracted delay which had occurred in resolving control and that H and W did not wish to be the cause of further delay.

The Maclehosse shares have been suspended from quotation since last December. Every this week, Mr. J. H. G. McLachlan, who acquired a substantial holding of Maclehosse shares last year, said he had sold 370,110 at 40p each and a further 85,872 at 42p.

A spokesman for the Maclehosse advisers, Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation, said they had asked for certain information about Rev and that a Board statement was likely later this week.

## JONES STROUD REPLIES TO FOTHERGILL

Jones Stroud (Holdings) again urges shareholders of Fothergill and Harvey to accept its bid, due to close next Monday, in a quick reply to the recent detailed letter from F and H's Board backing up its recommendation for rejection.

Four points are made by JS, the first of which is that the income which would be received "is still substantially greater than the proposed increased dividend." Shareholders are also told they will continue to maintain an interest in their company by being able to exercise "the highly attractive option" to convert fully into the Ordinary shares of the enlarged group.

It is also claimed that the value of the offer is greater than the

# GILGATE HOLDINGS LTD

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PRE-TAX PROFIT DOUBLED AT £106,384  
DIVIDEND INCREASED TO 10-5%  
EARNINGS PER SHARE UP FROM 1-25p TO 2-32p  
RESERVES INCREASED FROM £58,546 TO £813,275

Highlights from the annual statement by the Chairman Mr. M. T. F. Parrett for the year to 30th June 1973.

- Overall objectives of increased earnings and assets per share achieved.
- But for present legislation Board would have felt justified in recommending larger dividend in view of profits achieved and optimism for future.
- Board intend retaining high class investment properties to assure long term capital appreciation.
- Board to continue vigorous expansion by acquisition and internal development.
- Directors confident further satisfactory growth should be achieved in current year enhancing both earnings and assets attributable to shareholders.

Copies of the report and accounts are available from The Secretary, Gilgate Holdings Limited, 23, Grosvenor Street, London W1X 0PE

# The questions you ask about the Price Commission



Mrs. M. Smart, Housewife

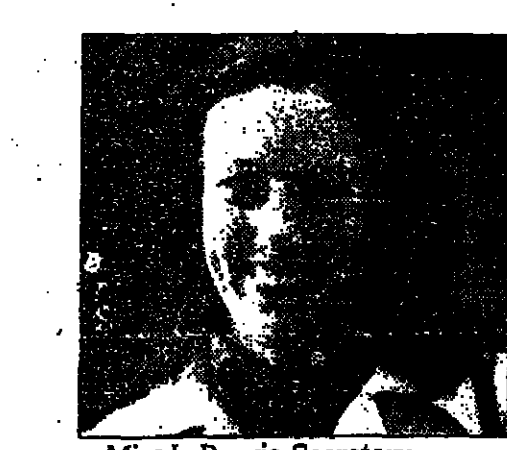


Mr. H. Byrne, Businessman

For instance, they might have to pay more for their raw materials or have higher wage costs. However, not all these increased costs can be passed on to the consumer and it is the role of the Price Commission to see that prices do not go up more than is really necessary. It is also the Commission's job to ensure that where costs fall, prices are reduced.

The largest companies have to notify the Commission of their intention to increase prices. If the Commission are not satisfied, they may reject all or part of the increase.

Secondly, there is a strict control over the margin of profit a firm can make. If the firm exceeds, or is likely to exceed its permitted profit level, it is expected to cut its prices.



Miss L. Purvis, Secretary

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But shopkeepers are strictly controlled on the overall profit margins they can make and they should arrange their prices so that they do not exceed these margins. If they do they are expected to reduce their prices.

## 'What is the Price Commission?'

The Price Commission is an independent body set up by the Government to control the prices of a wide range of goods and services. In order to do this it operates a set of rules which are laid down in the Price Code.

## 'How does it control prices?'

There are two ways. First, manufacturers are not expected to increase their prices unless certain of the costs involved in producing their goods have gone up.

For instance, they might have to pay more for their raw materials or have higher wage costs. However, not all these increased costs can be passed on to the consumer and it is the role of the Price Commission to see that prices do not go up more than is really necessary. It is also the Commission's job to ensure that where costs fall, prices are reduced.

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## 'Does it control individual prices in shops?'

No. It would be very difficult to control the prices of thousands of different products sold in shops, or between one shop and another, although the Commission keeps a watch on important items including fresh foods.

But shopkeepers are strictly controlled on the overall profit margins they can make and they should arrange their prices so that they do not exceed these margins. If they do they are expected to reduce their prices.

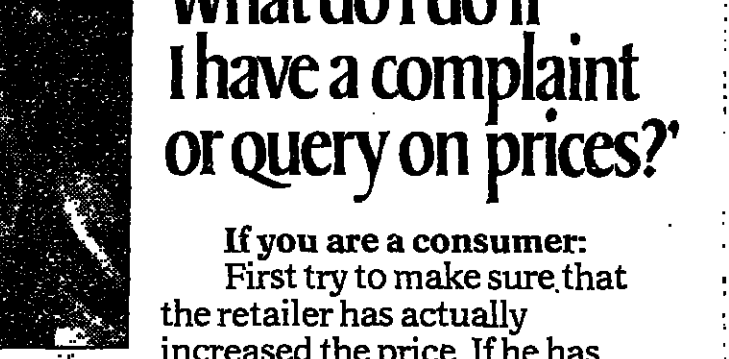
## 'Are all prices covered by the Price Commission?'

The majority of prices of goods and services are covered by the Commission. There are however certain items, such as rents and rates (about which you should ask your local authorities), the retail price of milk and insurance premiums, which are covered by other government controls.

## 'What do I do if I have a complaint or query on prices?'

If you are a consumer: First try to make sure that the retailer has actually increased the price. If he has and you are not satisfied with his explanation, you should raise the matter with any of your local consumer organisations or Chamber of Trade. Should they be unable to assist, you can contact your regional Price Commission centre at the address below for further advice.

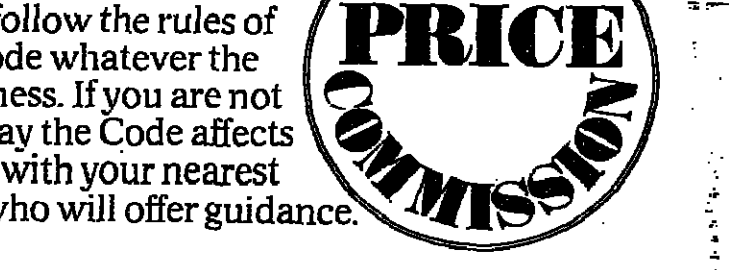
If you are in business: You should follow the rules of the new Price Code whatever the size of your business. If you are not sure about the way the Code affects you, get in touch with your nearest regional centre who will offer guidance.



Mrs. E. Sheahan, Housewife

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## Price Commission Centres

Office for Scotland 3rd Floor, 440 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3NS. Tel: 041-552 6546  
West Midlands Region Bayliss House, Hurst Street, Birmingham B5 4BS. Tel: 021-622 3541/4  
London and South East Region 2nd Floor, Wingate House, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1V 7AE. Tel: 01-459 4401  
Eastern Region 2nd Floor, Wingate House, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1V 7AE. Tel: 01-459 4401  
East Midlands Region 2nd Floor, Wingate House, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1V 7AE. Tel: 01-459 4401  
Northern Region 2nd Floor, Wingate House, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1V 7AE. Tel: 01-459 4401  
Yorkshire & Humberside Region 2nd Floor, Wingate House, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1V 7AE. Tel: 01-459 4401  
North West Region 2nd Floor, Wingate House, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1V 7AE. Tel: 01-459 4401  
South West Region 2nd Floor, Wingate House, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1V 7AE. Tel: 01-459 4401  
Wales & Northern Ireland 2nd Floor, Wingate House, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1V 7AE. Tel: 01-459 4401

ISSUED BY THE PRICE COMMISSION



## INTERNATIONAL COMPANY NEWS + EURO MARKETS

## Snia Viscosa hopes for return to profits this year

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON

A MARKED overall improvement in the production and profitability of the Italian synthetic fibre industry as a whole and Snia Viscosa in particular was outlined by the president of Snia, Sig. Luigi Santa Maria, at the company's extraordinary shareholders' meeting which approved the capital increase and convertible bond issue announced earlier this month.

Snia's turnover over the first nine months amounted to Lire 341,000m. Sig. Santa Maria added, updating the figures for the first nine months which showed turnover up 27.8 per cent. to Lire 210,800m. Further progress along these lines until the end of the year could see Snia break through into profit after three years of heavy losses, but Sig. Santa Maria warned that the Government's price freeze, the question mark over the cost and availability of raw materials and the current labour negotiations put a question mark over this.

Meanwhile, the Italian artificial and synthetic fibre industry as a whole raised its output in volume terms by 15.8 per cent. over the first nine months to produce 415m. kilos. Snia's president stated that within Snia itself the progressive shift away from artificial and towards synthetic fibres accelerated over this period. This was due to the coming on stream of a new polyester fibre plant at Vercelli, plus the doubling of the staple capacity at Villacidro in Sardinia and a sharp increase in output from the new polyamide staple line at Castellaccio, south of Rome.

These additions in capacity mean that out of a total capacity of 230,000 tons per year over 130,000 tons is now represented by synthetic fibre capacity, while cellulose and other artificial fibre capacity, which was pre-

viously in a prevalent position, has stagnated at existing levels around 100,000 tons.

Roughly one third of the physical assets of the company calculated at L450,000m., are the result of heavy investment over the past three years, during which the company made heavy losses and failed to pay a dividend.

The terms of the convertible bond issue are believed to have been made deliberately advantageous in order to partially compensate for this recent history of losses. Over the next five years Snia plans to invest further L250,000m. and these plans have been coordinated with similar growth targets proposed by Montedison's Montedison subsidiary.

## Sindona bank merger nears completion

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON

ITALIAN FINANCIER Michele Sindona's long planned merger of his Italian banking interests has moved closer to reality with the approval by shareholders of Banca Unione. This is controlled by Sig. Sindona whose Comasec holding company holds 51 per cent. of the shares. The capital increase of 10,000,000 new L.250 nominal shares at par, plus L50 expenses on a 5 for 1 basis.

The proceeds of the capital increase will be used to buy the entire share capital of Banca Privata Finanziaria, also controlled by Sig. Sindona through Fasco Italiana (50.25 per cent.) and Fasco AG with the remaining 25.05 per cent. possessed by Continental Illinois Bank. This move is due to be followed by the incorporation of Banca Privata into Banca Unione, but official approval for this ultimate merger move is still awaited from the Bank of Italy.

The proposed merger is essentially a tidying up measure but with combined assets and deposits of around L450,000m. (approximately £450m.) the merged bank forms a powerful base for Sig. Sindona's other financial operations. In addition Banca Privata Finanziaria also controls two other banks — the Banca di Genova and the Banca di Messina in Sicily — and these will also come under the Banca Unione umbrella in future.

## Akzo to increase stake in South America

BY MICHAEL VAN OS

AKZO, the Dutch chemical group, announced today that it is to raise considerably its investments in Latin America. The group will take a 45 per cent. share in the construction of a new chemical fibres plant in Brazil which, it claims, will be the biggest project of its nature in Latin America.

Investments in the first stage will be at least \$80m. ensuring an initial capacity of more than 30,000 tons a year of a wide range of synthetic fibres, according to Akzo in Arnhem, Production at the plant, which will employ 1,200 people, is expected to start in 1976.

The plant will be built in Camaracari in Brazil's Bahia state near the Salvador border. It will be linked to a massive petrochemical complex which is currently under construction there from which the fibres plant will draw raw materials such as caprolactam. One of the suppliers will be Brazil's first caprolactam plant which is Dutch State Mines (DSM) building in Camaracari in conjunction with three local companies. That will be a 35,000-ton a year plant to come on stream in 1976, requiring investments totalling \$45m. It will be operated by a joint company called Nitrocarbano in which the Brazilian participants are Bahia, and Copex-Petroquimica de Amidas. DSM will have a 20.5 per cent. stake in the venture's share capital, with the three partners each taking 26.5 per cent.

The Dutch share in the Camaracari chemical fibre plant will be bigger at 45 per cent. To operate the plant a new company called Companhia Bahiana de Fibras (COBAFI) will be set up together with the Rocha Miranda group, a leading Brazilian insurance company which has industrial interests in several fields. It will also have a 45 per cent. stake.

## British Gas loan signed

BY MARY CAMPBELL

THE BRITISH Gas Corporation's \$250m. seven-year loan was signed yesterday. A particular feature of the loan is that while based on the usual floating rate basis, it incorporates a maximum average interest rate over the whole life of the loan of 10 1/2 per cent.

## Nestle sells U.S. wine units

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. Nov. 28. NESTLE SAID it plans to sell its U.S. wine-making and marketing business to Wine World of San Francisco. The sale, which has not been disclosed, involves the sale of a subsidiary, a publicly held investment company in Luxembourg, will acquire from Crosse and Blackwell Vintage Celler, a Nestle subsidiary, the wine inventories of Bering Wine of St. Helena, California, and two importing divisions. Wine World will also lease a winery and hospitality centre owned by Crosse and Blackwell, a Nestle spokesman said.

## Kloekner turnover rises

KLOECKNER-WERKE reports a rise in turnover to Dm.2,530m. for the year to September 30 from Dm.2,040m. in the previous year. But the company gives no indications of profits and dividend payments for the year under review. Last year it paid an unchanged dividend of 6 per cent. out of extraordinary gains of Dm.20.5m. The net loss was Dm.12m.

The company said earnings were affected by two contradictory forces: higher costs and strong demand, which allowed for better use of capacity. Reuter

## Pommery rejects Moët bid

By Rupert Cornwell

PARIS, Nov. 28. MOËT ET CHANDON, France's biggest champagne house, has turned down the widely-predicted takeover bid for its smaller competitor Pommery et Reims.

In a statement today the Pommery Board, headed by Prince Louis de Polignac, rejected Moët's offer, a one-for-one straight share exchange as unsatisfactory. More significant was the fact that Pommery had a substantial shareholder support for its hostility to the offer.

This "support" is undoubtedly the 25 per cent. of the share that is controlled by de Polignac, whose desire for maintained independence has never been a secret. His holding, particularly if buttressed by other shareholders, would mean a vote far short of a blocking majority.

However, to deter Moët, who did not appear, consult with Pommery before the bid, in the full knowledge that it would be opposed, the conditions of the champagne business are unlikely to have caused any change.

Already it has seemed the backing of the Schneider group's Banque de l'Union Européenne, which holds 12.5 per cent. of Pommery, and will now be considering whether to improve its terms.

## A T &amp; T offer undersubscribed

NEW YORK, Nov. 28. FEWER ADVANCE buyers were waiting for American Telephone and Telegraph's (AT & T) second \$500m. offering of preferred stock.

An instantaneous sellout was posted last March in AT & T's initial sale of preferred to the public. This Tuesday, however, more than 10 per cent. of its second preferred series was still available after the 10m. shares reached the market at \$50 apiece with a \$3.74 dividend rate to yield 7.48 per cent.

## Company Results

## Petrolane has record year

Petrolane has released preliminary financial figures indicating record revenue and earnings from continuing operations for the year ended September 30, 1973. Revenue from continuing operations increased by 25 per cent. to \$332.82m., compared with \$266.12m. in the previous year. Income from continuing operations rose 31 per cent. to \$113.25m. in 1973. On a primary basis, earnings per share from continuing operations were \$1.80, compared with \$1.38 restated in 1972. On a fully-diluted basis, earnings per share from continuing operations were \$1.47 against \$1.25 in 1972.

Net income, adjusted for losses of discontinued operations and the disposal of subsidiaries, amounted to \$119.92m. or \$1.11 a share fully diluted, compared with \$89.86m. or \$0.81 reported last year.

Chairman Mr. R. J. Munzer stated that the energy-related activities, namely LP-gas distribution and services to the petroleum industry, primarily offshore, contributed approximately two-thirds of the fiscal 1973 earnings. LP-gas earnings rose by nearly 40 per cent. in 1973 and earnings from services to the petroleum industry, excluding discontinued operations, increased by nearly 50 per cent. The consumer products division experienced an earnings gain of about 10 per cent. over the prior year. A regular quarterly dividend of 8.9 cents per share is to be paid.

International Systems and Controls president D. L. Goldy said that the company's operations, increased by 20 per cent. to \$155.63m. or \$1.73 a share compared with \$128.61m. or \$1.38 a share in 1972. Revenue totalled \$80.4m. (\$66m.).

## NSU diversifies further

BY MICHAEL VAN OS

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 28. NEDERLANDSCHE Scheepvaart (NSU), Holland's largest shipping company, is continuing its programme of diversifying its interests unabated.

Having announced earlier this week that it was stepping up its activities in the tourist industry, NSU said in Rijswijk today that it was about to take a 50 per cent. interest in the Canadian management of Keen's and the quoted company Keen Industries. This company, which had a

## FIJIAN INDUSTRY

## Realism over-rules desire

THE FIJI Government will begin a series of moves in the coming months to attract more manufacturing and processing industries to its islands. It is a significant move resulting from a shift in political thinking about foreign investment.

At the time of independence, in late 1970, the Government was aware of the need for more manufacturing, but appeared to think that it would come of its own accord. The strategic importance of the island in the South Pacific, because of low cost labour and because, under British rule, most things seemed to have happened by themselves. For foreign investors there were several problems including a lack of nationalisation and most of all the fear of riots, disturbances and political instability, as a result of the racial situation. The majority of the 500,000 population are Indians with a small number of Europeans and wealth, and the minority Fijians, who own the land and are richer in spite of their reluctance to work.

The riots have not happened. After a quiet election, Government is stable, but the influx of manufacturing industry has been slow. A flour mill has been established, though it has run into an enormous number of problems. A second brewery has been established by New Zealand interests, and has had some early success. A small steel rolling mill is also operating.

There is a clear recognition that in the last three years performance of the established manufacturing sector has been good, but that the rate of new industries being set up has been disappointing. With further disappointment in mining, agriculture and fishing, there is a realisation of the need to encourage manufacturing interests to provide employment. Each year Fiji has added 6,000 new jobs, and this rate of growth will continue for some years before the impact of the currently successful family planning programme is felt in the labour market.

Since independence, the real rate of growth of GDP has averaged 6.5 per cent. a year, but only 1.5 per cent. in 1972, the 7 per cent. target. In 1972, GDP was estimated at \$Fij121.5m. (about £14m.), and for 1973, the estimate suggests it will be \$Fij123.1m. But the weight of tourism and sugar has tended to distort the economic scene.

Agriculture, fisheries, and forestry are contributing \$Fij146.8m. to the GDP for this year of which sugar accounts for \$Fij135m. Over 1970-73 this sector has been declining, with a negative growth rate of 0.6 per cent. annually. Mining and quarrying, contributing \$Fij11.7m. to GDP has also shown a negative growth rate of 12 per cent. a year since 1970. The three major service areas — commerce, restaurants and hotels, and transport and communications accounted for \$Fij105.7m. Transport growth has averaged 10.3 per cent. a year since 1970, that of hotels and restaurants 23.1 per cent. and commerce has grown at 7.4 per cent. All of this is in fact geared to the tourist industry.

In the mining sector, hopes have been disappointed. The Japanese have pulled out from developing known hauxite reserves, and there is doubt about the quality and future of what was shaping up at one stage like a major copper deposit. The improved because of the world price rise. The search for oil is continuing but giving little encouragement.

Growth in the manufacturing sector has averaged 6.3 per cent. a year — a figure that is better than planned yet still disappointing. The Government and civil service economists.

The rapid growth of tourism has caused an imbalance between urban and non-urban sectors of the economy. As the only area where jobs are readily available, it has attracted much labour from agriculture, and also made it difficult to transport water, sewerage, and construction facilities, which has curtailed their development in non-tourist

centres. While demand for food is increasing, the drift away from agriculture is increasing imports of food. In spite of the capacity to produce fresh produce, the bulk of its needs are imported frozen. Of fish alone, Fiji imports \$Fij17.2m. worth a year for local consumption, while a Japanese canning group catches and exports from Fijian waters \$Fij15m. worth a year.

Of the total workforce of 50,000 salary and wage earners, 17,800 are directly employed in the tourist industry and estimates

## Amid a rising tide of opinion against foreign ownership the Fiji Government is openly seeking new investment from overseas. Michael Southern, recently in Fiji, found that the Government now realises that without foreign investment there will be no new industrial development.

Perhaps the most significant Government thinking has been where foreign capital and labour are concerned. A rising tide of opinion against foreign ownership (particularly Australian) at the universal level, the Government is open seeking new investment from overseas. A local share is encouraged, but as Mr. Stinson, the Finance Minister, and the Industry Minister, M. T. Khan both put it: "We want foreign investment in the country, but we want it to be new investment in the country, not just a re-statement of the old." There are some controls on the use of foreign capital for development. A local share is encouraged, but as Mr. Stinson and Mr. Khan both put it: "We want foreign investment in the country, but we want it to be new investment in the country, not just a re-statement of the old." There are some controls on the use of foreign capital for development. 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## FARMING AND RAW MATERIALS

## Higher hop production forecast

By Our Commodities Staff

SHARP RISE in English hop production is expected this year. The 1973 production estimate, published yesterday by the Hop Marketing Board, is 228,610 tons compared with actual production of 196,455 tons last year.

Of the estimated total nearly 9,000 tons would be expected to be consigned to the Hop Marketing Board, about 26,000 tons above last year's actual consignment.

The Kent total is estimated at 8,222 tons, 21,000 above last year's actual crop. While crops in other producing areas—Hereford, Worcester, Sussex, Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey—are all expected to be higher.

## U.S. sugar supply quota increased

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28. The third time in two months the U.S. 1973 sugar supply requirement quota has been raised, by 100,000 tons to 1.8m. short tons, in an effort to lower domestic sugar prices.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said it decided to raise the quota because of the earlier expectations of a rise in the price for raw sugar in the U.S. and increased to 11.10 cents a pound and "underlying market strength indicates the spot price might move to higher, rather than lower, levels."

It was reported from Kingston that Jamaica was being forced to cut back exports of sugar in order to relieve a shortage of supplies on her home market.

A scarcity of sugar in Jamaica in recent weeks has led sugar markets to other food stores to divert unofficial rationing.

## Australian wool supply warning

ENATOR Ken Wiatt, Australian Minister for Primary Industries, said here today that if Australia's wool supply declined, buyers whose countries took the most interest in development and expansion of the industry in Australia would receive the most sympathetic treatment.

He was replying to Senator Charles Maunsell, who asked if he Minister had said at a recent London conference that wool was becoming "an exclusive fibre."

## Spectacular rises in metal markets

By JOHN EDWARDS, COMMODITIES EDITOR

METAL PRICES went sky-high on the London Metal Exchange yesterday in one of the most extraordinary days of trading in the exchange's history. All metals were affected by a surge of new buying interest and extreme reluctance to sell. As a result, copper, tin and zinc all traded at new all-time peaks, and lead prices are now very close to highest ever levels.

The price increases were spectacular. Copper cash wirebars rose by £75.50 to £1,040 a tonne, cash zinc by £90 to £255 a tonne, and cash tin by £107.50 to £2,542.50 a tonne. Cash lead gained £13 to £228.75 a tonne, while the bullion spot silver quotation was 5.65p higher at 123.5p an ounce.

The renewed upsurge could not be attributed to any one single influence; it seems to be more of a combination of factors that mixed together to make an explosive cocktail. Among the most important influences were the renewed weakness of sterling against other currencies, the rise in the gold price, and hopes of improvement in the oil supply situation.

Strong renewed speculative buying, and frantic covering of previous "short" sale positions, were other big factors, while the copper and zinc markets are also dominated by an acute shortage of immediately available supplies.

In copper the cash wirebars ended the day 61.5p higher than the three months quotation, following to an extreme scarcity of

supplies available to the market during the next few weeks.

The zinc supply shortage is even worse. Despite the restriction on buying zinc for delivery before the end of the year, cash zinc is over £150 above three months.

The forward quotation was in fact held back by news from Washington that the U.S. stockpile is to offer 25,000 short tons of zinc "off the shelf" during the first quarter of 1974.

The lower value of sterling against the Malaysian dollar was certainly a major influence in the tin market where London prices have moved out of line with those in Penang. Tin prices were also influenced by the Tin Council's decision to continue the restriction on the buffer stock. In fact the Tin Council seems to have been more concerned with the possibility of prices falling steeply, once the present surge abates. A move, by Bolivia, to raise the Tin Agreement price ranges was rejected.

There was also a move to add to the buffer stock had exceeded the expected supply deficit of 11,000 tons this year and that some 13,000 tons had been added to consumer stocks already.

It was being suggested yesterday that countries like Japan and West Germany, whose currencies have been revalued, were stockpiling non-ferrous metals. Governments officially deny doing so, however.

## Beef supplies tight but prices stable

By PETER BULLEN

RETAIL BEEF prices which have remained exceptionally stable in recent weeks are unlikely to rise this weekend despite a tight supply position.

Beef cattle numbers are expected to be about 7 per cent down this week and the average market price up by 15p to £18.52 a cwt. according to Meat and Livestock Commission forecasts.

Retail butchers have reported short supplies of beef and the cold weather has increased the recent consumer interest in beef, particularly in the cheaper cuts such as stewing steak and mince.

Last week, however, beef prices in retail outlets dropped sharply because of an increase in supplies and the EEC

reference price declined to £20.30 a live cwt. only 0.3p per cent above the guide price. The continued downward trends in cattle price levels appeared to be associated mainly with the considerable increase in domestic production levels, particularly in major importing countries such as West Germany, France, and Italy together with the "disruptive" effect of French price control measures said MLC.

As a result the lower price levels have also been reflected in the net exporting countries Denmark, Netherlands and Ireland. In fact Ireland has sold 1,400 tons of beef into Britain in recent weeks because of the low level of prices.

## Rubber price at new peak

By Richard Mooney

RENEWED SPECULATIVE interest took the rubber price to a post-Korean War peak on the London international market yesterday. The No. 1 RSS spot price put on 2p to 43p a kilo while future positions were also strong.

There is no obvious reason for this sudden rise but continued uncertainty about synthetic rubber supplies and prices could have been a major factor, the weakness of sterling being another.

Coffee prices also reached new life of contract highs with the January position rising 2p to 248.5p a ton, and cocoa staged a recovery after its recent downward trend reaching £272.25 a ton for March delivery, up 2p on the day.

The strength of the commodities market in general yesterday was indicated by the performance of Reuters' Commodity Index which soared 13.8 points to a record 1,264.9 (1951=100). This rise is largely attributed to sharp increases in non-ferrous metal prices. The Financial Times Commodity Index stood yesterday at 193.79, (1952=100), approaching the August peak of 199.43.

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## LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

## How stocks affect price trends

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE UNPRECEDENTED move by the London Metal Exchange to restrict trading on its zinc market, because of a shortage of nearby supplies, has raised doubts about the basic principle of relying on high prices to attract sufficient stocks.

Just as prices on the Metal Exchange reflect supply and demand in the free market, so the LME stocks put into perspective the picture of the market from uncommitted sources. While one of the functions of the LME is as a market of last resort for the marginal requirements of consumers, the greater part of its turnover is in non-physical ("paper") dealings for hedging and other purposes. Therefore it is quite feasible for a very large turnover in terms of tonnage to be underpinned by quite modest amounts of metal actually in warehouses.

Such a run-down in stocks may be a good thing, for it is accompanied by a parallel (or almost parallel) increase in prices. All LME stocks are owned by somebody. A proportion will be held by merchants and by fabricators as a part of their normal working stock, but the remainder is held by speculators holding metals as an investment, and by smelters and refiners themselves.

At the other end of the scale, when active demand by the trade has siphoned off surplus supplies and stocks are therefore at a relatively low level, prices should reach a level at which it becomes attractive to a holder of metal to "lend" some of it to the market. He would sell cash and repurchase forward: probably with the added stimulus of a premium, such as the cut-price sale, to the three months quotation. When demand exceeds available supply in the short term, then

cash or nearby material naturally commands a premium over more distant deliveries. In this way, just as borrowers tend to hold prices at some sort of resistance level when there is a surplus, so do lenders help to prevent stocks from drying up altogether in times of relative scarcity.

The actual introduction of new stocks into the market is quite simple. On unloading, at any of the LME warehouses in the U.K. or on the Continent, metal of the approved and registered brands is sorted into parcels (each of 25 tonnes of copper, lead and zinc, 5 tonnes of tin, and 10,000 troy ounces of silver), and warrants are issued by the warehouseman. These warrants are generally acceptable as collateral by banks against finance. The warrants are then put into circulation by selling them on the market, and the metal which they represent is retained as the property of whoever owns the warrants for the time being: whether he be a member of the

higher the volume of business done on the market over a given period, the faster are the market's stocks being turned over. In a market such as the LME, physical throughput is measurable, and not one which trades in a vacuum, the fact of material being delivered out of warehouse for use is always present. At the same time, the likelihood of metal stocks being reduced to insignificance is remote. In this context, the importance—especially in copper and lead—of the scrap trade, and the consequent recycling of metal to be put once more to use as secondary material is a major factor.

When conditions are right for it, stocks do get replenished and the whole self-correcting mechanism begins automatically to operate. In this way, the free interplay of supply and demand is not too much inhibited by artificial restraints imposed on the market from outside.

It is possible for someone to "short" a metal, and bring all market trading to a halt at the same moment, the chances are that there would be nowhere near enough metal on warrant to satisfy all comers. Because such an event is not possible, it is even likely that each transaction runs to its appointed "prompt date" and so fits into the pattern. In this way busy markets with an active turnover provide a broader base for prices than do thin ones.

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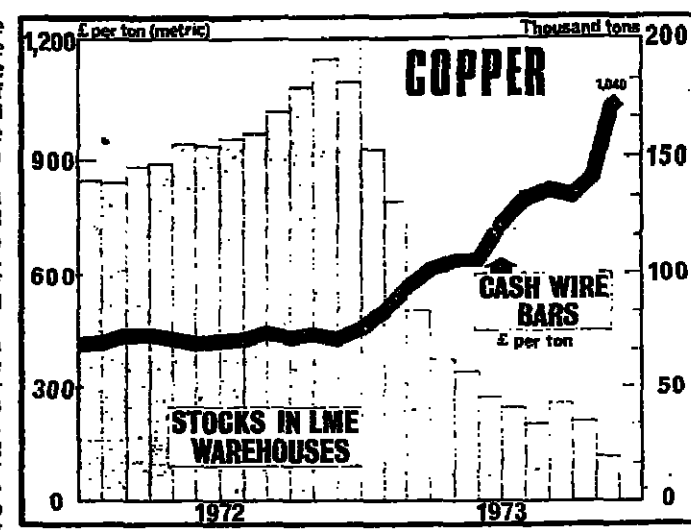
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STOCKS IN LME WAREHOUSES

In times of surplus, when the financial burden of carrying stocks becomes a real one, banks and other financial institutions will come into the picture as "borrowers" of metal. By taking advantage of the premium of forward deliveries over cash—cash money may buy cash at a guaranteed profit, dependent on the gap between the cash and forward price.

At the other end of the scale, when active demand by the trade has siphoned off surplus supplies and stocks are therefore at a relatively low level, prices should reach a level at which it becomes attractive to a holder of metal to "lend" some of it to the market. He would sell cash and repurchase forward: probably with the added stimulus of a premium, such as the cut-price sale, to the three months quotation. When demand exceeds available supply in the short term, then

cash or nearby material naturally commands a premium over more distant deliveries. In this way, just as borrowers tend to hold prices at some sort of resistance level when there is a surplus, so do lenders help to prevent stocks from drying up altogether in times of relative scarcity.

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It is possible for someone to "short" a metal, and bring all market trading



This document contains particulars given in compliance with the Regulations of the Council of The Stock Exchange for the purpose of giving information to the public with regard to the Company. The Directors collectively and individually accept full responsibility for the accuracy of the information given and confirm, having made all reasonable enquiries, that to the best of their knowledge and belief there are no other facts the omission of which would make any statement herein misleading.

A copy of this Offer for Sale, having attached thereto the documents specified below, has been delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration. Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the issued share capital of the Company to be admitted to the Official List.

The application list will open at 10 a.m. on 4th December, 1973 and will close on the same day. The procedure for application is set out below.

# Banks

## Sidney C. Banks Limited

(Incorporated in England under the Companies Act 1948—No. 495,831)

Grain Merchants and Seed Specialists

Share Capital

Authorised £800,000 in 3,200,000 Ordinary shares of 25p each Issued and fully paid £725,000

Apart from inter-company borrowings, neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries had at 31st October, 1973 any outstanding mortgages, loan capital, bank borrowings, liabilities under acceptances or acceptance credits, hire purchase commitments, or (other than in the ordinary course of business) any guarantees or other contingent liabilities of material amount.

## J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

Offer for Sale 1,100,000 Ordinary shares of 25p each at 50p per share

Payable in full on application. The Ordinary shares now offered will rank for all dividends hereafter declared or paid on the Ordinary share capital of the Company.

### THE BANKS GROUP

#### BUSINESS OF THE GROUP

The principal business of Sidney C. Banks Limited ("the Company") and its subsidiaries, Banks Mills Limited and Banks Transport (Sandy) Limited, (together referred to hereafter as "the Group") is that of grain merchants and seed specialists.

As a grain merchant, the Group purchases grain, primarily wheat and barley, from farmers and merchants for sale to brewers, distillers, flour millers and animal feed compounders. The Group also deals in other crops such as oats, beans, clover and mustard and exports field beans and barley to the Continent of Europe. Extensive facilities exist for the drying and storage of grain and for cleaning, dressing, bagging and storing seed corn. It is basic Group policy to match grain purchases and sales; a limited stock of grain is nevertheless held to ensure an efficient service to customers.

In the year to 31st May, 1973, sales to the five largest customers accounted for approximately 30 per cent. of Group turnover of £8.1 million with no one customer predominating, and no one farmer or other supplier accounted for 10 per cent. or more of Group purchases. Approximately 10 per cent. of Group turnover is under contracts negotiated annually for the supply of fixed quantities of milling barley to brewing and distillery companies. These contracts, although fixed annually, are expected to remain a continuing feature of the Group's grain trade.

The profits earned in the Group's grain merchandising business are primarily based on the tonnage handled rather than its value. During the five years to 31st May, 1973 the tonnage handled in the grain business has been as follows:—

Tons '000	1968	1970	1971	1972	1973
	115	128	136	173	173

In its seed business the Group has specialised in the sale of high quality seed corn to farmers for more than 20 years. In order to do this the Group has kept up-to-date with the latest scientific and technological innovations and carries out its own research to assess new varieties of grain. At Sandy the Group has laboratory facilities approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the testing of seed and has held a seed testing licence from that Ministry since 1952. These facilities enable the Group to ensure that it maintains its reputation for dealing in high quality seed corn. All members of the Group's sales and technical staff are required to attend the National Institute of Agricultural Botany at Cambridge and to obtain a crop inspector's qualification.

The Group also sells fertilisers and spray chemicals to a large number of farmers, trades in seed potatoes, grass seed and animal feeds, and has facilities for the processing and bagging of cereals for animal feeding.

The Group mainly operates within a geographical area stretching from Stamford in the North to London in the South and from Bury St. Edmunds in the East to Northampton in the West. Grain is purchased largely in the above area but, apart from exports, is sold to customers throughout Britain. The growth of the Group has been achieved by increased representation, both in area and density, and generally by the establishment of the Banks name in the grain trade.

The need to have permanent facilities available to meet export demands led to the acquisition by the Company in December, 1968 of an interest in the ordinary share capital of Kings Lynn Silos Limited, a consortium company developing grain silos and dockside facilities at Kings Lynn, Norfolk. The silos at Kings Lynn suffered serious structural damage in 1972 but repairs are taking place and they are expected to be fully operational again by early 1974; in the meantime, re-scheduling of deliveries has enabled trade to continue with minimal disruption. The value of goods exported by the Company from the United Kingdom during the year to 31st May, 1973 amounted to £334,000.

The Group's transport fleet comprises 24 vehicles engaged substantially full time on haulage on behalf of the Group. The fleet (the greater part of which is less than three years old) consists of 15 bulk grain carriers, 5 platform lorries, 3 vans and one other vehicle. In addition, recourse is made to outside haulage contractors.

#### HISTORY

The Company was incorporated as a private company under the name of Sidney C. Banks Limited in May, 1951 to acquire the agricultural merchandising business of Mr. S. C. Banks, who commenced trading on his own account in 1927 from premises near Sandy, Bedfordshire. The principal business was the purchase and sale of all types of grain. Continuing expansion of the business required the purchase of additional premises at Sandy Mill in 1935 and the present headquarters of the business at 29 St. Neots Road, Sandy in 1937. A depot at Granadan Lodge Airfield, Great Granadan, near Sandy was rented from the Government from 1948 and the freehold was acquired in June, 1963. Further expansion and the need for additional storage space led to the purchase of freehold deposits at Kennett, near Newmarket, Suffolk in August, 1966 and Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire in February, 1971. Premises have also been rented at Sandy station since 1962, providing important railhead facilities for deliveries to major customers. Silo storage facilities were added to this site in 1968.

Banks Mills Limited ("Mills") was incorporated in July, 1955 to take over the seed business of the Group and has been owned by members of the Banks family and their family trusts since that date. The Company and Mills have been under common management throughout and Mills became a subsidiary of the Company in November, 1973 by a re-arrangement of the Banks family shareholdings. Banks Transport (Sandy) Limited was incorporated in October, 1960 as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company.

#### PREMISES

The following are particulars of the principal properties of the Group, all of which are freehold, and the activities carried on at each:—

	Approximate site area (acres)	Approximate floor area (square feet)
29 St. Neots Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire.	3.5	57,000
Granadan Lodge Airfield, Great Granadan, Near Sandy, Bedfordshire.	1.8	31,200
The Grainstore, Station Road, Kennett, Near Newmarket, Suffolk.	4.4	64,800
Fulbourn Grain Silo, Wilburham Road, Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire.	2.8	13,300
Sandy Mill, Mill Lane, Sandy, Bedfordshire.	0.3	12,100

The above properties, excluding specialised storage equipment, were valued as at 31st May, 1973 on a going concern basis by Edward Rushton Son & Kenyon, Auctioneers, Valuers and Assessors at £575,500. In addition, the Company owns eight freehold houses which were purchased between 1963 and 1973 for occupation by employees of the Group and were valued by the same firm as at 31st May, 1973 at £107,200 on the same basis but having regard to the rights of the existing occupants. In the opinion of Edward Rushton Son & Kenyon the aggregate current value of the above properties, on an open market basis is not materially different from their value as stated above of £682,700 on a going concern basis.

#### MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES

Mr. S. C. Banks is 68 years old and, as mentioned above, founded the original business of the Group in 1927. Since that time, he has exercised overall supervision of the activities of the Group and has been Chairman of the Company and its main subsidiary, Mills, since their incorporation.

Mr. M. C. Banks (aged 34), elder son of Mr. S. C. Banks, joined the Group in 1957, becoming a Director in 1968, and is responsible for grain trading and transport. Mr. R. L. Banks (aged 31), younger son of Mr. S. C. Banks, joined the Group in 1960, becoming a Director in 1970, and is responsible for seed, grain processing and storage activities and for general administration within the Group.

Mr. S. C. Banks, Mr. M. C. Banks and Mr. R. L. Banks have each entered into Service Agreements with the Company (Material Contracts 2 (a) and (b) below). There are no commission arrangements in force. Mr. T. H. Silts (aged 58), a solicitor in private practice, has been a non-executive Director since 1951. Mr. D. O. Bailey (aged 62), a retired partner of Price Waterhouse & Co., Chartered Accountants, joined the Board as a non-executive Director in 1973.

Mr. A. F. Saunders (aged 54), an executive Director of Mills, joined the business in 1938 and is primarily responsible for the processing and sale of seed corn. Mr. H. J. Tudball (aged 53), the Company Secretary, who joined the business in 1949, is also responsible for the Group accounting function. The Group employs approximately 80 people. Relations with employees are good and employees over the age of 21 may join a contributory pension scheme.

#### WORKING CAPITAL

The Directors are satisfied that, after taking into account bank facilities available, the Group has sufficient working capital for its present requirements.

#### PROSPECTS, PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS

In the Group's grain business, the Directors expect that the demand for high quality home-grown grain, in particular barley, will show substantial increases as EEC tariff regulations make grain imported from non-member States less attractive. They consider that the Group's contacts with farmers and with the major consumers of home-grown grain should maintain its position in the home market. The trend towards larger farming units, higher yields and more rapid harvesting will require expansion of drying and storage facilities, particularly at times of adverse harvest conditions; such facilities may prove uneconomic for farmers to develop for themselves. This would create additional demand for the drying, cleaning and storage of grain by grain merchants.

As regards the Group's trade in seed corn, the growing impact of EEC regulations is expected to increase the requirement for expertise in the "multiplication" (testing) and trading of seed corn, and for the availability of up-to-date seed cleaning plant and chemical applications. In all these respects, the Group is well equipped to take advantage of the situation. A continued expansion is foreseen in the demand for fertilisers, agricultural chemicals, animal feeds and other branded products for which the Group's distribution arrangements provide an excellent base.

Although yields of grain in the Group's area of operations are slightly down compared with the previous year, this is expected to be offset by an improvement in the Group's share of trade within the area. As a result the Directors expect that the tonnage of grain handled during the current year will be maintained at the previous year's level. As to seed corn, fertilisers and spray chemicals, the trend is encouraging, both for sales and profit margins. Accordingly the Directors estimate that, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, and on the basis of the assumptions set out below, the consolidated profits before taxation of the Group for the year to 31st May, 1974 will amount to £300,000 compared with £269,000 for the previous year. The assumptions made in arriving at this figure are as follows:—

Copies of this Offer for Sale with Application Form may be obtained from:—

**J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited, 120 Cheapside, London, EC2V 8DS.**  
Fielding, Newson-Smith & Co., Garrard House, 31 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7DX.  
Barclays Bank (London and International) Limited, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 78, Malvern House, 72 Upper Thames Street, London, EC4P 4BJ.

and from the following branches of Barclays Bank Limited:—

15 Bene't Street, Cambridge, CB2 3PZ.  
2 High Street, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 1AH.  
5 Market Square, St. Neots, Huntingdonshire, PE19 2AS.  
1 Aldermanbury Square, London, EC2V 7HT.  
8 Angel Court, Throgmorton Street, London, EC2R 7HT.  
Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, EC2N 1HL.

#### DIRECTORS

**Sidney Charles Banks (Chairman).**  
The Gables, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 1LE.  
**Michael Charles Banks (Executive Director).**  
Manor Farm, Waresley, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 3BX.  
**Richard Lawin Banks (Executive Director).**  
Chesham House, Mill Lane, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 1NL.

**Derek Oswald Bailey, F.C.A.,**  
Middle Mogworthy, Reckentford, Tiverton, Devonshire, EX16 8DX.  
**Thomas Herbert Silts, M.B.E., T.D.,**  
Broadlands, Bedford Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 1EL.

#### SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE

**Herbert John Tudball,**  
29 St. Neots Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 1LD.

#### BANKERS

**Barclays Bank Limited,**  
2 High Street, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 1AH.

#### RECEIVING BANKERS TO THE OFFER FOR SALE

**Barclays Bank (London and International) Limited,**  
New Issues Department, P.O. Box 78,  
Malvern House, 72 Upper Thames Street, London, EC4P 4BJ.

#### SOLICITORS

**To the Company:**  
**Macfarlanes, Dowgate Hill House, London, EC4R 2SY.**  
**Leeds Smith, 6 Bedford Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 1EN.**

**To the Offer:**  
**Slaughter and May, 35 Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 5DB.**

#### AUDITORS AND REPORTING ACCOUNTANTS

**Price Waterhouse & Co. (Chartered Accountants),**  
3 Frederick's Place, Old Jewry, London, EC2R 8DB.

#### BROKERS

**Fielding, Newson-Smith & Co.,**  
Garrard House, 31 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7DX and The Stock Exchange.

#### REGISTRAR AND TRANSFER OFFICE

**Barclays Bank (London and International) Limited,**  
Registration Department, Radbroke Hall, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 9EU.

- that the supply of grain and branded products is sufficient to satisfy estimated sales for the remainder of the year;
- that conditions in world grain markets will not affect the maintenance of current gross profit margins per ton;
- that necessary transport and power facilities will remain available and at costs close to those estimated; and
- that there will be no changes in present governmental or EEC regulations adversely affecting the Group's business.

On the basis of Group profits before taxation of £300,000 and assuming a corporation tax rate of 50 per cent. it would be the intention of the Directors to recommend total dividends of 2.60p per share on the issued capital of 2,900,000 Ordinary shares of 25p each in respect of the year ending 31st May, 1974. Of the above dividends 0.85p per share would be payable as an interim in May, 1974 and 1.75p per share as a final dividend in November, 1974.

The following table illustrates how Group profits before taxation of £300,000 would be dealt with, assuming a corporation tax rate of 50 per cent.:—

Profit before taxation	£300,000
Less: Corporation tax at 50 per cent.	150,000
Profit after taxation	150,000
Less: Dividends of 2.60p per share (equivalent to 3.71p per share gross with imputed tax credit of 3/7ths)	75,400
Profit retained	£74,600

On this basis and at the Offer price of 50p, the shares would give a gross dividend yield of 7.43 per cent. and the price earnings ratio would be 9.7 on earnings of 5.17p per share. The dividends of 2.60p per share would be covered 1.99 times by earnings.

#### ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

The Directors,  
Sidney C. Banks Limited,  
J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited,  
3 Frederick's Place, Old Jewry,  
London, EC2R 8DB,  
27th November, 1973.

Dear Sirs,  
Throughout the period covered by this report, Sidney C. Banks Limited ("the Company") and Banks Mills Limited ("Mills"), which became a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company on 16th November, 1973 as a result of an exchange of shares, have been owned by various members of the Banks family and their family trusts and have been under common management. The Company and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Banks Transport (Sandy) Limited, together with Mills, are referred to in this report as "the Group". The results of Mills for each of the five years ended 31st May, 1973 are included in the Group balance sheet and the results of the Company for each of the five years ended 31st May, 1973 are included in the Group balance sheet at that date and, together with those at 31st May in each of the years 1968 to 1972, in the summary of balance sheets set out below.

We have examined the books and accounts of all companies in the Group for the period relevant to this report. In our opinion the statement of turnover, profits and dividends of the Group for the five years ended 31st May, 1973 and the balance sheets of the Company and of the Group at that date give, with the explanation of accounting policies, a true and fair view of the profits of the Group for the periods stated and of the state of affairs of the Company and the Group at that date.

#### ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- Turnover**  
Turnover is shown as the amount receivable for goods sold and of charges for haulage to third parties.
- Stock**  
Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated net realisable value.
- Associated Company**  
The Group's share of profits or losses of its associated company, Kings Lynn Silos Limited, for the years ending 31st December is included in the profit before taxation of the Group for the years ending on the following 31st May.
- Deferred Taxation**  
Deferred taxation on the excess of depreciation allowances for tax purposes over those charged in arriving at the trading results is provided at the estimated rate of corporation tax applicable for the current year. Provision is also made for taxation which, under present legislation, would arise if the assets stated at valuation were realised at those amounts. No adjustment is made to take account of the effect of changes in rate of corporation tax on the deferred tax at the beginning of the year.
- Depreciation**  
Depreciation is provided on fixed assets, other than freehold land, to write off their cost in equal annual instalments over their expected useful lives. As from 1st June, 1973 depreciation of buildings will be provided on the revalued amounts; the charge for a full year based on the buildings owned at 31st May, 1973 would thereby increase by approximately £38,000. The principal rates used are as follows:—  
Freehold buildings 2½–4%; Plant and machinery 10%–20%; Motor vehicles 20%.

#### TURNOVER, PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS

The turnover, profits and dividends of the Group for the five years ended 31st May, 1973, based on the audited accounts of the various companies and after making such adjustments as we consider appropriate, were as follows:—

	1968	1970	1971	1972	1973
Turnover	£394.1	£459.2	£593.3	£654.6	£812.4
Cost of sales	383.8	447.5	579.4	632.8	785.2
Including: Depreciation	24	27	35	36	46
Interest receivable	103	117	189	217	272
Other income	9	2	4	3	6
Share of profits/(losses) of associated company	3	1	2	1	(13)
Profit before taxation	118	118	187	222	269
Taxation	52	51	81	90	122
Profit after taxation	63	67	118	132	147
Dividends:					
Gross amount	14	10	20	20	17
Amount payable	—	—	—	—	—
Profit retained	49	57	98	112	130
Earnings per share based on the profit after taxation and on 2,900,000 shares, being the number which will be in issue following the proposed Offer for Sale in November, 1973.	2.17p	2.31p	4.00p	4.55p	5.07p

**Associated Company**  
Severe damage occurred to the associated company's grain silos in 1972 and provision has been made for the Group's share of the estimated resulting loss of £48,000. The interest in associated company shown in the Company's balance sheet below represents the Company's investment at cost, less the provision referred to above in the Group balance sheet. The Group's share of the retained earnings of the associated company is also included.

**Taxation**  
Taxation comprises United Kingdom corporation tax on the profit for the year.

#### BALANCE SHEETS AT 31st MAY, 1973

The balance sheets of the Company and of the Group at 31st May, 1973, based on audited accounts at that date after giving effect to the acquisition of Mills by an exchange of shares on 16th November, 1973, were as follows:

The Company	The Group	Cost or valuation '000	Depreciation '000
Fixed Assets			
Freehold land and buildings	683	683	—
Plant and machinery	185	185	85
Motor vehicles	134	134	72
	1,002	1,002	167
Net book amount			836
Investment in subsidiaries			27
Current assets			144
Stock			100
Accounts owing by subsidiaries			1,073
Debtors			122
Bank and cash balances			1,339
			2,538
Current liabilities			418
Creditors			100
Taxation			150
Bank overdraft (unsecured)			17
Proposed dividends			685
			964
Net current assets			1,574
Deduct: Deferred liabilities			—
Corporation tax:			25
Payable 1st October, 1974			67
Deferred taxation			171
			263
Net tangible assets			1,258

Represented by:  
Issued share capital (shares of £1 each):—  
At 31st May, 1973

Issued for acquisition of Mills

Capital reserves

Retained profits

1,258

The freehold land and buildings are stated at a professional valuation on a going concern basis at 31st May, 1973 by Edward Rushton Son & Kenyon, Auctioneers, Valuers and Assessors. The surplus arising on the valuation, less deferred taxation (Company £135,000; Group £135,000), has been credited to capital reserves.

At 31st May, 1973 the Directors had approved and contracted for future capital expenditure of £18,000.

#### SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS

The net assets of the Company and Mills at the accounting dates 31st May, 1968 to 31st May, 1973, based on the audited accounts after giving effect to the acquisition of Mills by an exchange of shares on 16th November, 1973, as after making such adjustments as we consider appropriate, were as follows:—

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Fixed assets (1973 includes 288,000 at valuation)	196	205	217	252	248	1,073
Current assets:						
Stock	105	118	82	90	166	16
Debtors	153	612	587	615	1,173	1,073
Bank and cash balances	168	7	90	14	65	12
	724	737	769	719	1,404	1,238
Current liabilities:						
Creditors	150	244	184	185	206	41
Taxation	70	58	56	51	74	10
Bank overdraft (unsecured)	176	151	151	12	21	18
Proposed dividends	27	14	10	20	20	8
	423	414	401	268	821	68
Net current assets	301	323	368	451	583	1,230
	487	548	603	730	859	1,311

Deduct: Deferred liabilities:

Corporation tax:

Deferred taxation

53

53

51

74

82

12

17

Net tangible assets

441

490

547

643



# ister post for Mr. Feather

JHN ELLIOTT, LABOUR EDITOR

RST of two new public posts to be given to Mr. Feather, recently retired secretary of the TUC, fact-finding delegation to Ulster, named him as a of the Standing Commission on Human Rights in Northern Ireland. The second appointment, still announced, is that Mr. 65, is to be a special on trade union affairs to the Economic Development Council. He is already a member of the EDC. Mr. Feather, 65, retired from the TUC in September, 1972, after a long and distinguished career. He has been a public figure since then and the Northern Ireland situation has been a major challenge to him. He has spent much of his time as TUC secretary, Mr. Feather, Northern Ireland representative and was proud of the

## Damage by U.K. ports fire over 60% up

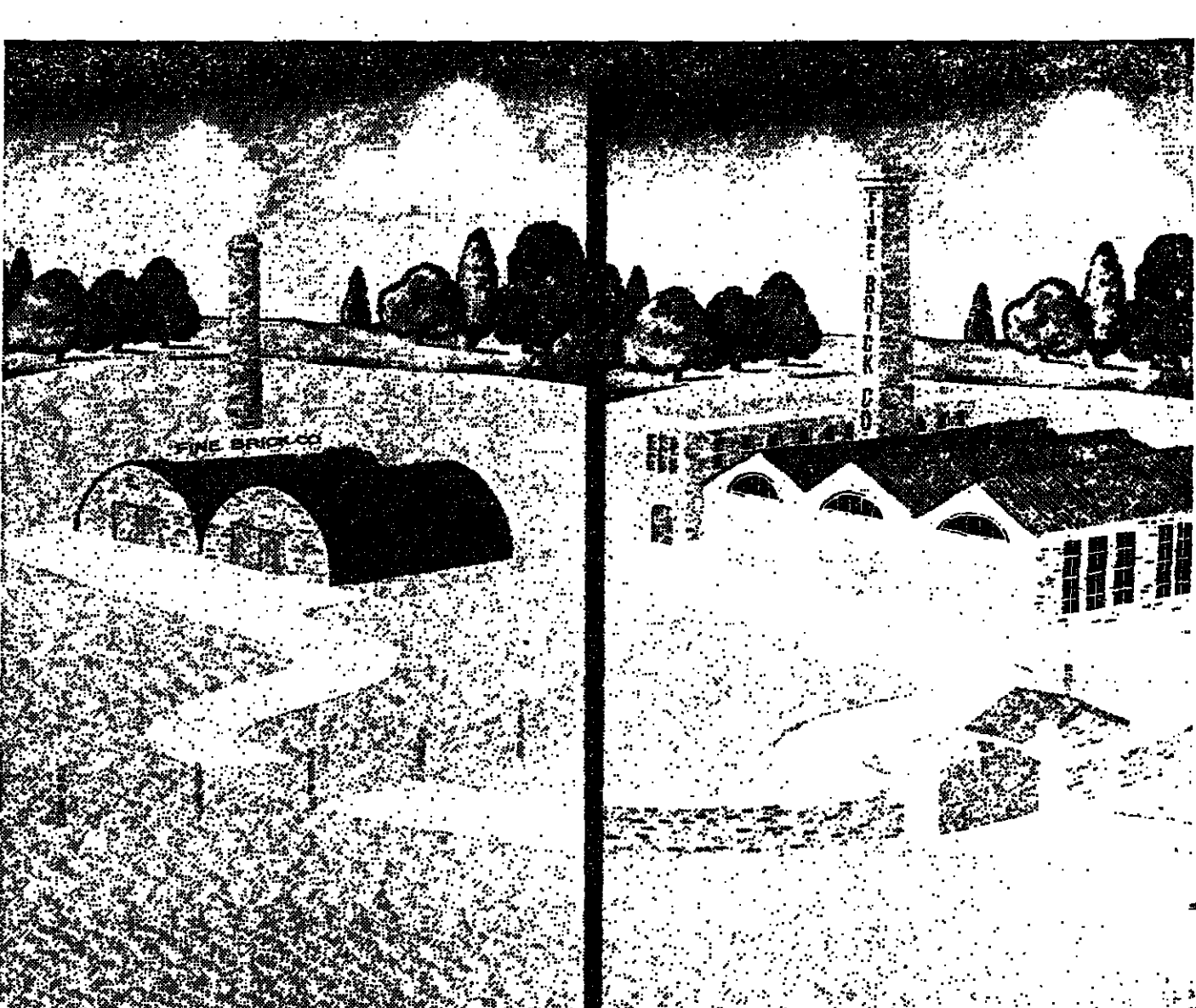
FIRE DAMAGE last month was almost twice as bad as in October, 1972. Costing an estimated £17.3m, the bill was the second largest for any month this year and brought the total for the first ten months of the year to £150.9m. This is over 60 per cent up on the same period last year.

The figures, issued by the British Insurance Association, represent only the material damage caused by fire. They do not take into account loss of business. Almost £2m. of the October loss was the result of one fire in the South of England involving several companies. Fires at an oil depot, a retail store complex and a warehouse cost £1m. each while a further 17 fires are estimated to have cost more than £100,000 each. The October total is a sharp increase on September, when damage was the lowest in 1973. The only worse month this year was July when the total reached £18.4m, partly as a result of one fire in the North which cost £4m.

## U.K. ports want EEC to end subsidies

By Ray Daffer

THE BRITISH ports industry has urged the Government to press for a fairer system of trading within the European Community. At a meeting with Mr. John Peyton, Minister for Transport Industries, the British Ports Association said the Government should seek to secure principles of fair competition for trans-shipment trade between U.K. and Continental ports. The association pointed out that Continental ports, unlike those in Britain, were assisted by state subsidies. In France, for instance, the Government meets 80 per cent of capital expenditure on docks and channels and 60 per cent of the cost of quays. The U.K. system in which ports finance total expenditure without subsidies is favoured as the EEC policy by the association. Mr. Peyton was also told that the ports industry is concerned to see that the pricing policies of the Channel Tunnel should reflect the full operating costs without any help from Government. The industry is also anxious that the tunnel should not attract specific traffic—like roll-on lorries—through discriminatory pricing policies. Such a scheme could unfairly affect port traffic, says the association.



## Russia developing 'flying river bus'

he Soviet Union is developing a "flying bus" for use on long rivers, like the inland seas, such as the Caspian. The craft, called the Ekranoplane, is a flying wing, can ride over the water like a ship, and fly at low heights to avoid such as fog-banks and ships. The has a twin-boomed hull, seating up to 100 knots. It is one of the types of hovercraft listed in the latest edition of Jane's Surface Vessels, the world guide to this sort of

either operating hovercraft, buying them, or seeking price quotations. "Technical advances and more than 10 hours of operating experience in all climatic conditions have finally dispelled any remaining fears about their feasibility. "Given a continuance of current orders and interest, the production of these vehicles will almost certainly develop into one of the world's major industries within the next ten years." Among new developments are military applications, such as in anti-submarine warfare, and in U.S. plans for a class of 2,000-ton hovercraft warships. Jane's Surface Skimmers, 1973-74 is published by Jane's Yearbooks (Sampson Low, Marston and Co.), at £10.

## Schroder Life leaves Association

By Michael Blandin

DOMINION-LINCOLN Assurance, recently taken over by Schroder Life, has decided to leave the Life Offices Association. The decision to pull out, Schroders explained yesterday, was connected with the agreement on commission payments within the L.O.A. Following the acquisition of Dominion-Lincoln (a name now changed to Schroder Life Assurance) it would have been necessary in any case to re-apply for membership of the L.O.A. after the change of ownership. Previously, Dominion-Lincoln had exemption as a small company from some of the commission rules of the Association, but this would no longer apply to the combined Schroder's operation, creating difficulties for the group. Schroders consider re-applying for membership in the future when it has rationalised its commission structure within the enlarged group.

## What a little money from Kinghurst can do

Our speciality is building up the small to medium businessman. If you need £15,000—£150,000 as working capital, to buy plant or machinery, a mortgage for commercial or industrial buildings or property finance you should know about us. On the basis that inside every small businessman is a big businessman raging to get out, we've worked hard to find out what

he feels and needs. That's what sets us a little apart from merchant and clearing banks. Plus possibly a smidgen more imagination. The upshot is that if you're a man with good, sound ideas we don't think a shortage of capital is a growing pain you should suffer. So why not ring or write to us. You'll get the personal attention of a Kinghurst director.



Kinghurst Securities Limited, Bankers. 100 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Telephone 0202 333 1231. Telex 577 143.

Industrial and Commercial Mortgages from Kinghurst for the growing man.

Kinghurst Securities is the banking arm of Kinghurst Financial Trust. Shareholders include Barclays Trust International, Provident Life Association and Unilever Superannuation Fund.

## Sidney C. Banks Limited

### STATUTORY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

capital. 1 November, 1971 the authorised share capital of the Company was £50,000 divided into 50,000 shares of £1 each. On 18th November, 1973, the authorised share capital of the Company was increased to £100,000, divided into 100,000 shares of £1 each. On 27th November, 1973, the authorised share capital was £82,000, divided into 82,000 shares of £1 each. 17,000 shares were issued and fully paid. Pursuant to resolutions passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company on 27th November, 1973, the 82,000 shares of £1 each in the Company was subdivided into four Ordinary shares of 25p each. The authorised share capital of the Company was increased from £82,000 to £800,000 by the creation of 2,962,000 Ordinary shares of 25p each. 1,000 of the Company's reserves were capitalised and 2,712,000 Ordinary shares of 25p each were allotted, totalling fully paid, to the existing shareholders in proportion to their holdings; and the Company was converted into a public company and adopted new Articles of Association. The following provisions (inter alia) to the following effect:— show of hands every member who is present in person shall have one vote and on a poll every member who is present in person or by proxy shall have one vote for every share of which he is the holder. Aggregate amount for the time being remaining undischarged of all monies borrowed by the Group and for any other monies owing to persons outside the Group shall not at any time without the previous sanction of the Directors exceed an amount equal to the Share Capital and Consolidated Reserves (as defined). Directors may borrow for such purposes amounts outstanding under certain transactions (as defined) without the sanction of the Directors. The remuneration of the non-executive Directors shall be at the rate of £1,200 per annum or at such rate as the Directors may determine. Any Director who renders any special service or goes or resides abroad in connection with the conduct of the affairs of the Company may be paid such extra remuneration by salary lump sum commission or otherwise, as the Directors may determine. The Directors may repay to any Director all such reasonable expenses incurred by him in attending and returning from meetings of the Directors or in connection with the conduct of the affairs of the Company or otherwise in or about the business of the Company. Directors may establish and maintain pension or superannuation funds for the benefit of persons who are or have been or will be in the employment or service of the Company or any Subsidiary or who are or were Directors or officers of the Company or any Subsidiary and the widows, widowers, families and dependants of such persons. Directors may contract or be concerned in any contract or arrangement with the Company. Where proposals are made for the appointment of two or more Directors, such proposals may be divided and voted on separately and in such case each of the Directors concerned (if not already retired from voting) shall be entitled to vote (and be counted in the quorum) in respect of each resolution except that no Director shall be required to hold any shares of the Company by way of qualification. On 18th of the Companies Act, 1948 regarding the appointment and retirement of Directors who have attained the age of 70 does not apply to the Company. In certain circumstances conforming with Stock Exchange requirements a Director shall not vote in respect of certain contracts or arrangements or any other proposal whatsoever in which he has any material interest, otherwise by virtue of his interest in shares or debentures or other securities of or otherwise in or through the Company, or shall not be counted in the quorum at a Meeting in relation to any resolution on which he is deemed to be voting. **Related and Associated Companies** The Company is the Company's subsidiary companies (both of which are wholly-owned and incorporated in England):— 

Date of Incorporation	Issued Share Capital	Company's Interest
19th July, 1955	£300	(including £200 capitalised as a bonus issue on 16th June, 1972) £1,000

**Bankers** Transport (Sandy) Limited 26th October, 1980 Company owns one third of the issued Ordinary shares in an associated company, Kings Lynn Sites Limited. KLS was incorporated in England on 8th August, 1968 and has an issued share capital of £33,333, consisting of 1,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each and £33,333 in 8 per cent. Convertible Preferred Ordinary shares of £1 each, repayable on demand. The Company has a beneficial interest in KLS on 30th December, 1968. **Other related companies** The Company has a beneficial interest in the following companies:— 

Company	Share Capital	Company's Interest
Directors	£100,000	100,000
S. C. Banks	500,000	500,000
M. C. Banks	500,000	500,000
R. C. Banks	500,000	500,000
D. O. Bailey	500,000	500,000

**Completion of the Offer for Sale** The Directors will be beneficially interested in a total of 1,130,000 Ordinary shares in the Company (representing 30.7 per cent of the issued share capital). In addition, Mrs. H. Banks (wife of Mr. S. C. Banks) and Mr. T. H. Sills (son of Mr. S. C. Banks) are beneficially interested in 370,000 Ordinary shares in the Company (representing 9.3 per cent of the issued share capital) as trustees of a Settlement for the benefit of the children of Mr. S. C. Banks. Mrs. J. A. Clements, daughter of Mr. S. C. Banks, has a beneficial interest in 100,000 Ordinary shares (representing 10.34 per cent of the issued share capital). Save as disclosed herein the Directors are not aware of any shareholdings which upon completion of the Offer for Sale will represent 10 per cent or more of the issued share capital of the Company. **Other related companies** The Company has a beneficial interest in the following companies:— 

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**Completion of the Offer for Sale** The Directors will be beneficially interested in a total of 1,130,000 Ordinary shares in the Company (representing 30.7 per cent of the issued share capital). In addition, Mrs. H. Banks (wife of Mr. S. C. Banks) and Mr. T. H. Sills (son of Mr. S. C. Banks) are beneficially interested in 370,000 Ordinary shares in the Company (representing 9.3 per cent of the issued share capital) as trustees of a Settlement for the benefit of the children of Mr. S. C. Banks. Mrs. J. A. Clements, daughter of Mr. S. C. Banks, has a beneficial interest in 100,000 Ordinary shares (representing 10.34 per cent of the issued share capital). Save as disclosed herein the Directors are not aware of any shareholdings which upon completion of the Offer for Sale will represent 10 per cent or more of the issued share capital of the Company. **Other related companies** The Company has a beneficial interest in the following companies:— 

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The Soviet Union has vast oil reserves, but their full exploitation requires delicate diplomacy. **Maira Cunyngnam reports from Moscow**

# Russia's problematic energy equation

THE ENERGY crisis in the West, fields in western Siberia has according to Soviet economists, almost trebled in the last three years and this is expected to be the result of capitalist mismanagement. The Soviet Press has written in detail about exploitation of natural resources, and the expansionist policies of monopolies. The Soviet Press has written in detail about Western oil shortages, but less has been said about the situation in the Soviet Union, though increasing references to the need to make better use of energy resources suggest that the Russians may be growing concerned about their own energy outlook.

The available information has led to widely different conclusions by both East and West European economists. Some predict that the Soviet Union will face an oil crisis of its own and that it will be a major importer of oil by 1980, others that by this date many West European countries and Japan will be heavily dependent on imports from the Soviet Union.

## Increase

At present the Soviet Union is the second largest producer of oil after the U.S. In 1971 Soviet estimates put the known land reserves at 68,000m. tons, the offshore reserves at 100,000m. tons and the probable further land reserves at 200,000m. tons. In 1970, 40 per cent of the oil was transported in pipelines which totalled 41,000 km at the end of 1971. A further 30,000 km should be laid by 1975.

Production is planned to grow from 423m. tons this year to 496m. tons in 1975 and about 600m. in 1980. By 1980, however, about a third of the total production should come from the Siberian oilfields. Only 8 per cent of the known reserves in Western Siberia have been extracted and the possibility and profitability of opening up the Siberian oil fields will be one of the main factors determining future oil production.

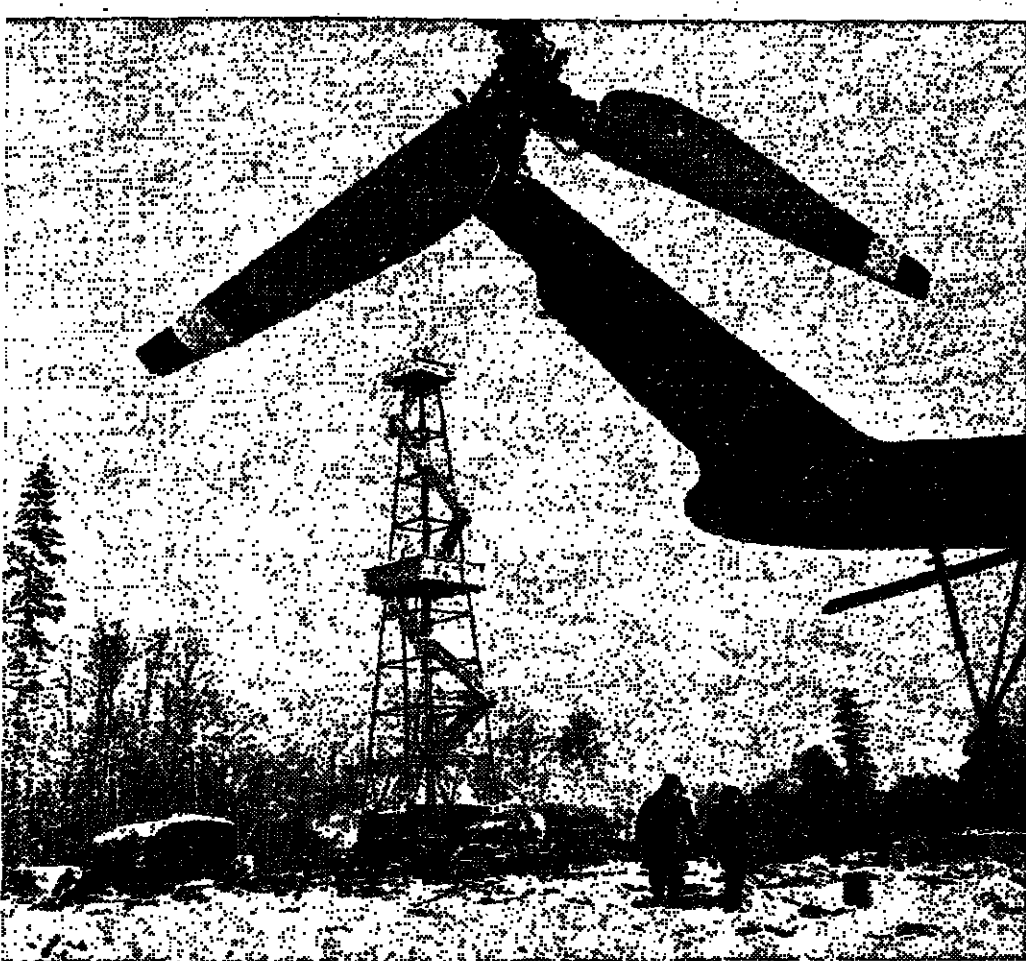
Production in the once major oil centres of Baku and the north Caucasus is now decreasing and no increase is expected in Bashkiria, Kuibyshev, Perm, Turkmenia and the Ukraine. Production in the Tyumen oil

## Quality

The quality of the Siberian oil is said to be very good with almost no sulphur and a fair amount of hydrocarbon and propane and butane. But the situation and climate make extraction very difficult and costly. Extremely high wages have to be paid to attract labour to the oil fields, which are far from any sizeable town and where among the many discomforts are mosquitoes which can cover a bare arm in over a hundred bites in an hour. In winter the ground is frozen and in summer it becomes a swamp which makes the movement of equipment impossible. The most practical method found so far is to dig a channel in winter with explosives and fill it with stone. This acts as a dam in summer along which equipment is moved. Planes and helicopters are naturally used a lot but this adds to the expense.

The great distances between the oil fields and areas of consumption have made a costly pipeline system necessary. In 1970, 40 per cent of the oil was transported in pipelines which totalled 41,000 km at the end of 1971. A further 30,000 km should be laid by 1975. Oil from the Mangyshlak peninsula on the Caspian Sea, the only area on the Caspian where production is growing rapidly, is so thick that it has to be warmed before it can be transported the necessary 1,380 km. For this reason the target production figures have not been met.

The Soviet Union has admitted that it lacks the investment capital and technological skill required to exploit its vast reserves and transport the oil. Japanese, West European and American concerns have all been wooed but massive oil exports or hard currency payment will be needed for this co-operation which means that both oil and \$100,000m. is needed for capital supply for a long time. The Soviet



An oil derrick in the Tyumen oil fields in Western Siberia, where output has almost trebled in the last three years

Union, which once claimed to have a permanent balance of payments surplus because of its planned economy, last year had a trade deficit with the West of about £500m. The figure remains well over £300m. even when the sales of gold are taken into account.

The Soviet Union hopes that the energy crisis in the West may give it a stronger hand in its negotiations with Western oil companies and governments. U.S. experts however estimate that \$100,000m. is needed for capital investment, and how soon the

Soviet Union would begin to earn any return on this cannot be foreseen.

## Imports

Meanwhile standing commitments have forced the Soviet Union to restrict its oil exports to West Germany in spite of its increasing imports from Germany and to reduce its offer to Japan from 40m. tons to 25m. tons annually. In return, Japan is supposed to build a pipeline from the Tyumen field in western Siberia to the Pacific port of

Nakhodka at an estimated cost of nearly \$2,000m. Japanese sources have said that the project will be uneconomical if it can import only 25m. tons and Japan is thought to be unhappy about building a pipeline which would run near the Chinese border and could be used to provide fuel for the Soviet army.

The picture is further complicated by the lack of information on Soviet present and future oil requirements. The developing economy and planned increase in the production of lorries and private cars have led some

Western economists to put the domestic requirement in 1980 at as much as 600m. tons, about 100m. less than the planned total production target which some consider over-optimistic. Other Western and Soviet economists, however, predict a much lower need.

The requirements of the other Comecon countries are also growing. For political reasons the Soviet Union needs to maintain a high level of exports to these countries. In 1971, a total of 74.8m. tons or roughly two-thirds of all Soviet oil exports went to Eastern Europe. Such exports do not, of course, earn hard currency, and the machinery the Soviet Union imports from East Europe is less advanced than the purchases it would like to make from Western Europe. The export of oil to Western Europe, that is, to Italy, Finland, West Germany, Sweden and France, is already said to give the Soviet Union almost 30 per cent of its hard currency earnings. In 1971 oil was the third most valuable export item after machinery and transport vehicles and iron and steel goods.

## Concern

Some East European countries have shown concern at the uncertainty of future oil imports from the Soviet Union and have estimated that, in any case, East Europe will have to import up to 50m. tons a year from other sources by 1980. Bulgaria, East Germany, Hungary and Romania which in 1972 imported 10.9m. tons from the Middle East and North Africa, are the only countries which are likely to require large imports from outside the Soviet Union.

Estimates of total East European import requirements vary widely but the Hungarian periodical Valosag put them as high as 153m. to 173m. tons in 1980.

In 1972 Iraq was the largest supplier of crude oil to Eastern Europe. The other suppliers were Iran, Egypt, Syria, Libya and Algeria, in that order. The Soviet Union itself imported 13m. tons from Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Libya.

## Assistance

Iraq's exports to East Europe increased by 600 per cent last year, reflecting the Soviet Union's closer political and economic ties with the country. In the spring of 1972, the two countries signed a 15-year friendship treaty which was seen as a reflection of Moscow's wish to balance its relationship with Egypt with another Arab ally in the Gulf. The Soviet Union gave a \$25m. loan and technical assistance for the development of the North Rumaila field which was opened by the Soviet Premier, Mr. Kosygin. East European imports from Iraq increased rapidly after the seizure of Western oil interests there.

If the Soviet Union had to increase its imports considerably this would probably not mean exports and hard currency issues? How fast will the economy expand and how oil will it require in 1980? are just a few of the questions which can only be tentatively answered. The situation also depends in part on the Soviet Union can a nical assistance and other

exports for which the East and North African countries would pay the Soviet Union oil shipments to East Europe that no hard currency was involved.

The nationalisation of East oil has been urged by the Arabs by Moscow for years but it is possible that the oil was actually being used in that East Europe could the West as a large Middle East oil. On the an economically weaker might further Soviet objectives in the long not help it economically is seeking Western co-operation. The Soviet Union some responsibility for the action of the Arabs which the West which are the rising concern at the Moreover, the Soviet could hardly increase exports to the West, became possible, while were limiting supplies.

To forecast how much oil the Soviet Union will be able to export or import is a difficult task. How fast will the economy expand and how oil will it require in 1980? are just a few of the questions which can only be tentatively answered. The situation also depends in part on the Soviet Union can a nical assistance and other

## APPOINTMENTS

### Mr. L. Preston heads Mocatta and Goldsmid

Mr. L. T. G. Preston, a director of Standard and Chartered Banking Group, has been appointed chairman of MOCATTA AND GOLDSMID and also chairman of its subsidiary company, Commercial Metal Company.

Mr. F. H. Saint, managing director of BOCM SILCOCK will be appointed chairman of that company from March 1. He will succeed Mr. K. Durham, who is to be nominated for election to the Boards of UNILEVER and UNILEVER NV. Mr. M. G. Heron has been appointed managing director of Boem Silcock from January 1.

United Agricultural Merchants, which now forms part of Boem Silcock, will become an independent Unilever operating company from March 1.

Mr. O. R. Jessel, Dr. M. J. R. Davies and Mr. N. G. K. Davies have been appointed to the Board of G. R. DAVES HOLDINGS. Mr. A. J. Sidwell and Mr. J. A. Kenwright have left the Board.

At the same time G. R. Davies and Co., the banking subsidiary, has appointed Mr. M. V. St. Giles and Mr. T. R. Paris to the Board. Mr. Jessel resigning on his appointment to the holdings Board.

Mr. Charles Hodgman has been appointed manager, vehicle division, GENERAL MOTORS LIMITED. He will have responsibility for the importation and marketing in the U.K. of Opel cars and of General Motors U.S. built models.

Mr. Edward Fitzsimons is to join the Board of RUSCRAFT GREETING CARDS (U.K.) on December 1 as sales director.

Mr. B. D. Gilbert and Mr. J. Blake have been appointed to the Board of LONDON AND CONTINENTAL PUBLISHING which recently took over United Trade Press.

Mr. Maurice W. Maxwell is to become chairman of ASSOCIATED BOOK PUBLISHERS on January 1. He will succeed Sir Oliver Crookshank-Eyre, who is reducing his responsibilities and resigning from the chairmanship and from the Board at the end of this year.

Mr. Malcolm Taylor has been appointed deputy general manager of SLATER WALKER INSURANCE COMPANY. He was previously finance director.

Mr. F. H. Wood has been appointed a director of FAWKES SADDLELEY GROUP. Since last year he has acted as an alternate director.

Mr. G. R. D. Calder has been appointed Director of the AIR TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD and is expected to take up his duties early in March. Mr. Calder is at present director of training (ground) for the Royal Air Force with the rank of Air Commodore.

Mr. John Fawcough has joined CROSS PAPERWARE and becomes managing director on January 1. He will succeed Mr. A. H. Scott, who is retiring but will continue as a non-executive director.

Mr. P. Denbow and Mr. I. G. Donaldson have been appointed vice presidents of BANKERS TRUST COMPANY and Mr. D. C. L. Bassell has become a vice president and auditor, Europe. Mr. J. Lindemann, Mr. J. A. Marchant and Mr. G. H. E. Thomas have been made assistant vice presidents. All are based at the bank's London office. The bank's Birmingham representative, Mr. H. Cotterill, has been appointed assistant vice president.

Mr. Paul Walker has been appointed executive director of the MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY GROUP OF GREAT BRITAIN in succession to Mr. Peter Ruggles, who retires at the end of the year.

Mr. Francis Burr and Mr. Harry Fowler have been appointed

directors of the COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE COMPANY. Both are on the Board of its U.S. subsidiary, Commercial Union Corporation.

Mr. J. H. Ogden has been appointed to the Board of WGL.

Mr. Richard Blanche, chairman and managing director of the director and secretary of SCOTTISH LICENCES MUTUAL parent company has succeeded as president of INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, has appointed a director and retired after 34 years' service, president of the subsidiary

Mr. Blanche also retires the Board of the Associated Investments, Bermuda a succeeded as president b

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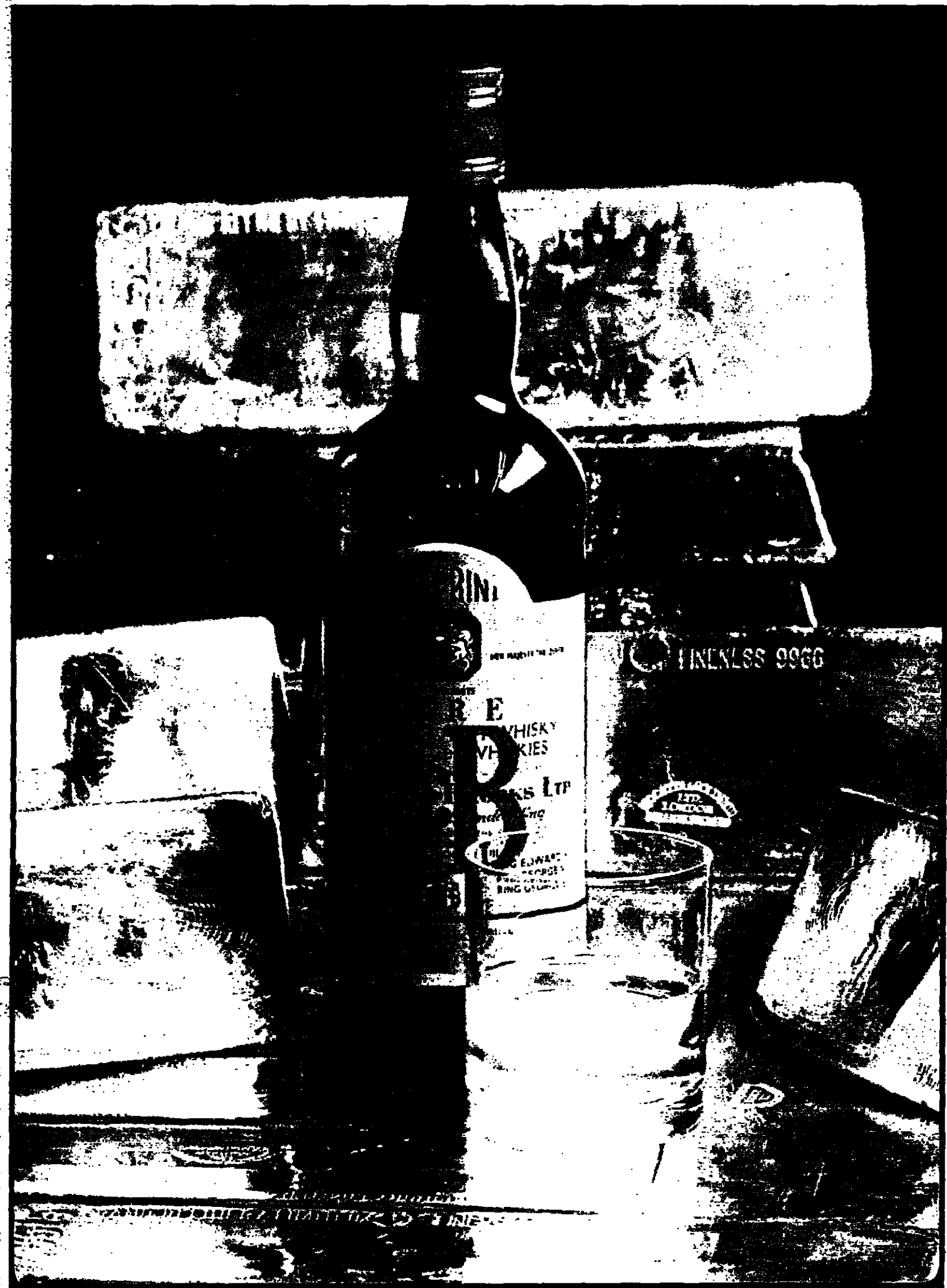
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J&B. For those who like their whisky rare.

JPK 100150

## NEWMAN-TONK

Activities include the manufacture of architectural and builders' hardware, Briton Door Closing Devices, non-ferrous tube and extrusions and light engineering components.

**PROFITS UP 50 PER CENT TO £1.5m**  
Extracts from the circulated Statement of Mr. Herbert C. Sheard (Group Chairman)

This year's trading has resulted in a profit of £1,510,017 compared with £1,050,641 in 1972. This increase justifies the Directors' recommendation of a final dividend of 16.45% net (equivalent to 23.5% gross) making a total of 31.5% gross for the year—maximum allowable under the current Government legislation. The Directors also recommending a one for one scrip issue.

I must confess to some earlier disappointments in effecting rationalisation within the group and to some considerable satisfaction now that it is becoming effective. During the second part of the year, reorganisation of production and changes in top management began to have a notable impact on sales and profit. The performance of the Hardware Division is steadily improving and I am expecting that its results will make a significant addition to the overall profits in the current year.

Whilst our group is proceeding with plans to develop a high production 'budget' hardware section, particularly for the home improvement buyer, I, D.I.Y., I would again stress that the majority of our trade in hardware relates to the better class of institutional public building and architecturally specified products which are least affected by political trade disruptions and high interest rates.

As to the immediate future, there is still a very buoyant order book for both home and abroad, and we consider that there is further growth within our own industry. We are still pursuing our declared policy of acquisition and internal expansion, and I look forward to next year's confidence in the policies the Board have already formulated.

## F. COPSON CO. LTD

**Record Results—Continuing Expansion**

The following is an extract from the circulated statement of the Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. F. Copson:

The Accounts show an increase on the record profits reported last year, which was our Silver Jubilee year. The Group profit was £89,170 (£84,719). The Directors recommend a dividend of 31.5% (equivalent to a gross dividend of 45%) and are proposing a 2 for 1 free issue.

Group turnover at £1,921,361 increased by £237,522 and account the effects of the builders' strike during 1972, and shortage of copper tubing throughout the year.

Our subsidiary companies, L. N. Pressly Ltd. and Ordy W. Air Ltd. have shown increases on their previous year's profits. Fletcher (Erdington) Ltd. did not produce the anticipated, but every possible step is being taken to improve position for the future.

Demand at the moment is on a reduced scale, but we have large contracts in hand and anticipate that these together with a general improvement in demand towards the end of our financial year should at least enable us to maintain our position.

## UNITED REAL PROPERTY TRUST LIMITED

Extracts from the Report and Accounts for the year ended 5th April, 1973, presented by Mr. Maurice Wohl.

	1973	1972
RENTAL AND SERVICE INCOME ...	1,864,390	1,700,400
NET REVENUE BEFORE TAXATION	1,148,574	985,200
DIVIDENDS	439,500	450,000
REVENUE BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	1,532,882	1,285,200

FINAL DIVIDEND OF 7.325% with Interim of 2.5% and related tax credits is equivalent to Gross of 15.75% (15%). In addition Special Second Interim Dividend of 3.252% payable to avoid special assessment.



# ACCOUNTANCY APPOINTMENTS

## Fund Managers

A well known and fast growing City Institution requires two high calibre Fund Managers:

- 1) A Fund Manager to take responsibility for the North American investments held in the Group's various portfolios.
- 2) A Private Client Fund Manager who will be responsible for the Group's private clients' investments.

Age is of less importance than relevant experience and proven competence. Our clients are not rigid about salary and any offer made will be very attractive in comparison with candidates' existing circumstances.

Please reply giving full career details to date, in strictest confidence, quoting Reference FM/22/1, to:

David Sheppard,  
**DAVID SHEPPARD & PARTNERS LTD.**  
2-4 King Street,  
London SW1Y 6QL

## FINANCE DIRECTOR Designate

Derbyshire Circa £5,000  
Plus Car

A long established private building and civil engineering group of companies requires a chartered accountant to join a recently reorganised management team. The company is now in the course of expanding and diversifying its operations.

The successful candidate will be required not only to advise on proposed developments and the best use of surplus assets but also to take total responsibility for the accounting function within the Group. A new management control and information system has recently been designed by our consultants and is now being introduced into the operating companies.

This is a new appointment and the right man should expect a Board appointment within twelve months. Salary is negotiable around £5,000. Fringe benefits include the exclusive use of a company car, attractive pension scheme and life assurance cover.

Write in confidence, quoting reference GE162 to:

Mrs. J. Tarrant,  
ICFC-NUMAS Limited,  
15 St. John's Road,  
HARROW, Middlesex.

or phone for an application form on 01-863 7155.

**ICFC  
NUMAS**  
Management Consultants

## THE DESIGN TEACHING PRACTICE, SHEFFIELD

This independent practice, taking graduate students from the Department of Architecture requires

### An Experienced Finance Administrator

Applications are invited from Chartered Accountants, Secretaries and others trained and qualified in business administration.

In conjunction with the Director of the Practice, the Finance Administrator would be responsible for the establishment and exemplary conduct of the business life of the practice and for innovating management methods and systems useful to the various public and private practices assisting the Department in developing young graduates in practice.

While endeavouring to maintain high standards of design and multi professional service alongside developing educational experiences the practice must also operate within normal business and professional conditions.

Candidates for this unique opportunity must be confident of their ability and interest to make an effective contribution.

SALARY: £3,500 - £4,500

PENSION: Private scheme available.

Applications to: Professor G. Greenfield Baker,  
Head of the Department of Architecture,  
The University of Sheffield S10 2TN.

Closing Date for applications: 31 December 1973. Quote Ref. R.106/EU

## Director of Finance

LONDON - £8,000

for a small South London company which is one of only six in its field of precision instrumentation combined with electronic control. The new Financial Director should be a qualified accountant with a strong management accounting and budgetary control background. Suggested age not under 32.

Write in confidence to A. J. C. Lyddon.

**INBUCON**

Inbucon/AIC Executive Selection  
197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RN

## FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT

£2,000 + West End

The London headquarters of a major international group requires an Accountant to cater for the expanding needs of the central accounting department.

The position entails responsibility for the complete accounting function of four subsidiaries and the preparation of monthly management information. The successful candidate will have sound knowledge of accounting and understanding of book-keeping and willingness to expand with and take full responsibility for the job.

A working knowledge of German would be a distinct advantage.

Please telephone (01) 637-1591, extension 32, for an Application Form or write to Mr. J. R. Griffith at Elliott Turbomachinery Limited, 15 Portland Place, London W1N 1AA.

COUNTANTS: Qualified and Partly Qualified Accountants for hire. Telephone 01-580 8771. 200, City Road, London, E.C.4. Tel: 01-580 8771. none 236 5543.

## Find your place in British Gas

### ACCOUNTANTS/ FINANCIAL ANALYSTS & ACCOUNTANCY ASSISTANT

London up to £5508

Senior Analyst, to take responsibility for financial analysis of parts of the industry's plans and capital expenditure, including financial justification of major projects and the development of guidelines and techniques to be applied by Regions to minor expenditure. Reviewing medium-term plans. Developing financial policy. Determining performance targets. Accountancy/business school qualification or degree in economics, business administration or associated subjects. Four years' experience in industry of capital investment appraisal and financial analysis. Salary £4365-£5508. Reference F/004/369/

Financial Analyst (Regional Projects and Financial Studies), to carry out appraisal of major capital and special revenue projects. To review Regions' plans within framework of corporate plan. Investigation of financial situation of individual Regions. Development and implementation of uniform capital expenditure appraisal procedures and techniques. Economics/business administration degree or accountancy/engineering qualification. At least two years' post-qualification experience in industry of financial analysis and capital investment appraisal. Salary £3621-£4647. Reference F/004/370/

Accountancy Assistant, to prepare preliminary information for financial appraisals and other studies, including collection, checking and calculation of statistical and financial data. Accountancy qualification, or approaching qualification. Three years' practical accounting experience. Knowledge of techniques of capital investment appraisal and statistical computation an asset. Salary £1704-£2511. Reference F/004/371/

Application forms can be obtained from the Personnel Manager,  
British Gas, 59 Brynston Street, London W1A 2AZ,  
quoting the appropriate reference.  
Closing date for applications 15th December.

**BRITISH GAS**

## UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

around £7000

(Head of Audit Review Department)

This is a newly created appointment and one which carries a great deal of responsibility. The man our client is looking for must be a chartered accountant.

A man who can demonstrate his ability clearly and concisely.

A man who can prove a successful track record to date.

A man who is looking for a challenge.

The head of the audit review department will be responsible to the chairman of the audit technical committee. He will review financial statements issued by the firm as well as the audit work supporting them, and to help him he will build up a thoroughly professional team. Other aspects of the department's work involve the preparation of material for presentation to the technical committee, a considerable degree of involvement in the firm's development and responsibility for the technical content of its audit procedures and its training courses. The firm is part of an international network and the successful applicant will be based in London, with added responsibilities of supervision of similar operations in other UK offices. All applications will be treated in strictest confidence and a covering letter, listing firms to which they should not be forwarded, should be addressed to the

Managing Director,  
John Buckman Associates Limited, 410 Strand,  
London WC2R 0NS. Quoting reference: 746.

**Jb**

## Financial Director

Negotiable up to £7,500 p.a. + Car  
South Manchester

We are a member of the UDS Group, with over 500 Timpson and Norvic shoe shops throughout the U.K. and a turnover in excess of £20m. This opportunity has arisen because our Financial Director has been appointed Managing Director of another Company in the Group. We require a profit-motivated Chartered Accountant who wishes to be fully involved in achieving planned Company objectives and who can provide management with the information and advice necessary for this. Reporting to him will be a Chief Accountant, a Company Secretary and a Financial Analyst, and a staff of about 60.

Candidates, probably in their thirties, must be Chartered Accountants with several years in commerce or industry at top level using Computer based management accounting systems. Experience of retailing a distinct advantage. Full assistance will be given with any move necessary to the North West and fringe benefits are attractive. Please telephone or write in strictest confidence to: R. G. Galgut, William Timpson Limited, Southmoor Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester M23 9NU. Tel: 061-998 5261 (or Macclesfield 22847 after 7 p.m.)

### FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

For Spanish subsidiary of multinational American Corporation. Duties will include the preparation of all accounting records annual budgets and regular reporting of financial results to local and corporate Management. Must be fluent in Spanish and English. Candidates with relevant experience should send resume to Controller, Room 4403, 787 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

### INVESTMENT CLERK

Aged 18-21, required for Investment Department of City Chartered Accountants. Position will suit dynamic, ambitious individual who seeks a most rewarding position. Application in strictest confidence to: Webb Music Stores Ltd., 99-103, South Street, Romford, Essex.

QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT required to take charge of our accountancy and financial matters. Position will suit dynamic, ambitious individual who seeks a most rewarding position. Application in strictest confidence to: Webb Music Stores Ltd., 99-103, South Street, Romford, Essex.

### FINANCIAL CONTROLLER/CHIEF ACCOUNTANT FOR MAURITIUS

Textile Alliance Ltd., Hong Kong's leading textile manufacturer, is expanding its international operations, and seeks a Controller/Chief Accountant for its manufacturing operations in Mauritius. The successful candidate will:

1. Be a qualified accountant or holding an equivalent professional qualification;
2. Have a minimum of four years' experience preferably in a manufacturing environment;
3. Be fully capable of preparing monthly financial and analytical statements and annual financial accounts.

The appointment offers an interesting challenge and prospects for an ambitious accountant, who is able to work on his own initiative and without supervision, reporting to the main Board of Directors.

Please contact Mr. L. Zee at our London Office:  
T.A. SALES (U.K.) LTD.,  
Tal House, Lyon Industrial Estate,  
Oxgate Lane, Cricklewood, London, N.W.2.  
Telephone No. 01-450 4555.

ACCOUNTANCY APPOINTMENTS  
ALSO APPEAR ON PAGE 32



JOIN THE GROWING WORLD OF GULF

## NORTH SEA OIL EXPANSION

Due to the expansion of its Exploration activities, Gulf has a requirement for two additional Financial Accountants in its Eastern Hemisphere Headquarters, based in London. These vacancies are as follows:-

### 1. EXPLORATION REPRESENTATIVE

(£3,500-£4,000)

This covers responsibility inter alia for Profit and Capital Budgets, Management Reporting, Co-ordination and Financial Administration and will embrace several Exploration companies at least one of which will include part of the international North Sea operations. The successful candidate will:-

- BE AGED 25-30 YEARS
- BE A QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT (ACA, ACCA)
- HAVE TWO YEARS INDUSTRIAL OR COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCE

Experience of the oil industry would be advantageous but not essential. Occasional travel may be required.

### 2. EXPLORATION ACCOUNTANT

(£4,000-£4,500)

This will principally involve inter alia the preparation of Accounting Agreements and negotiations with other oil companies, joint interest audit and co-ordination of accounting policies. The job will be almost exclusively involved with the international North Sea operations. The successful candidate will:-

- BE AGED 28-35 YEARS
- BE A QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT (ACA)
- HAVE AT LEAST 5 YEARS' POST QUALIFICATION EXPERIENCE, OF WHICH 3 WILL BE IN THE PROFESSION

Both audit experience in a multinational environment and experience of contract negotiation would be advantageous, as would some familiarity with modern economic appraisal techniques. Occasional travel will be required.

Where deemed necessary, both of the above people will be given a short period of training in either the U.S. or one of our overseas subsidiaries. There are genuine prospects for promotion within the Gulf Organisation.

Write in the first instance to:-

Miss C. Hill,  
Employee Relations Department,  
Gulf Oil Company—Eastern Hemisphere,  
Gulf House, 2 Portman Street, London, W1H 0AN.



## Financial Controller

C. £5,500 + Car Home Counties

Our client, a multi-million pound subsidiary of a major British corporation, has retained our services to identify a highly motivated qualified Accountant to join a young, dynamic management team as Financial Controller. He will be responsible to the Managing Director for the financial strategy and control of a successful profit-orientated company committed to a policy of diversification and expansion, involving acquisition, new products and indigenous development from a base of several plants in the UK with the opportunity for further involvement in Europe.

This is a senior appointment offering very attractive career prospects within a large organisation for someone who can really contribute and produce results in a growth environment, covering an interesting range of products. Fringe benefits are appropriate and include a company car and relocation expenses.



**COURTENAY PERSONNEL LTD.**

Write or telephone in complete confidence, quoting Ref. FC152, Anthony Falcon, Courtenay Personnel Limited, 11 Maddox Street, London W1R 9LE. Tel: 01-499 1875/1876/5735.

## RICHARD SHOPS

### Company Secretary

This national group of fashion stores is continuing its expansion programme and invites applications for the position of Company Secretary.

He will be situated at our newly constructed Central Head Offices and warehouse near Euston Station and will be responsible to the Financial Director for the control of all aspects of the Company's administration and cash flow procedures.

The successful applicant should be in his thirties, a qualified

accountant, and should bring to this appointment a strong personality able to control a large staff. He should also have a knowledge of the retail trade and preferably an understanding of computer operations.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Write, stating age, experience etc to:

The Managing Director  
Richard Shops Limited  
132 Hampstead Road  
London NW1 2PS

## Financial Manager

MILAN

c\$18,000

This new appointment has arisen within the trading division of a multi-national Electrical manufacturing group and calls for a chartered accountant aged probably in his/her 30's. Reporting to the Director of Finance based in Brussels, the Financial Manager will control the accountancy function of the Italian operation. His/her first task will be to establish strong and effective controls, i.e. monthly management reports, budgets, cash forecasts etc. It is, however, intended that all routine accounting matters will be carried out at H.Q. in Brussels. Applications are invited from those who may either be in public practice or currently in industry, but some experience of multi-national companies is desirable. A fluency in Italian is essential. This position is considered by the main group as a "spring board" to Senior Line or Staff positions.

Apply to Hugh Harvey, for confidential application form: quoting ref. 16158/2FT. 27/22 Poland Street, London W1V 3DD. (01) 734 5043

**HB Executive International**

Executive Search, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Manchester, Newcastle



# GENERAL APPOINTMENTS



Banking Division  
**Lloyd Executive Selection Ltd**  
Allison House, 100 Old Broad Street, London EC2M 6JL  
Telephone 01-252 5525

## Auditor

Young American Bank  
c. £3000

A new appointment, created by continued growth, and offering individual responsibility plus scope for initiative.

Previous Audit experience within an International or Merchant Bank will provide the base for development, whilst an adaptable personality will ensure a happy atmosphere in a youthful environment.

Refer to Peter Conroy, A.I.B.

## Loans

Administration  
c. £2500

Further promotion within a reputed Overseas Bank, established only some 4 years in London, creates a superb opening for an ambitious young man, 24-26 years, with the ability to develop rapidly in the field of International Credit.

Experience of vetting Loan Agreements, controlling Syndicated participations and facility lines is considered essential.

Refer to Peter Conroy, A.I.B.

## Accounting Assistant

International Banking  
to £2300

A capable and efficient young man, aged 23/24, is required to assist in the Accounting function of a well-known City Bank.

Initial exposure will relate to the control of Data Processing, Currency Records and Returns, for which he must be experienced, but increasing involvement will occur in the production of Annual Accounts, Budgets and Commitment Analyses.

Refer to John Perkins

## Documentary Credits

to £1800

Two young men, aged 19-22 with previous experience of processing Bills and Credits, are required to handle the administrative complexities of financing European Trade.

The appointments, within a prominent International Bank, cover Advances against Documents, Collections and Presentations, and carry progressive gradings in a sound Development Programme.

Refer to Keith Wood



## Merchant Banking with Henry Ansbacher

### SCOTLAND

As part of the Bank's planned expansion programme an autonomous Scottish merchant banking operation is to be established. Based in Edinburgh, the Scottish Branch will provide a full range of merchant banking services with initial emphasis on deposit taking, lending and corporate advisory work.

Two senior executives are required to assist in the establishment and profitable expansion of this operation. They will have the personality to deal direct with clients and the technical skills to cope with the wide variety of business to be developed. The executives required are:-

A Banker with either a clearing bank or merchant banking background but necessarily with decision-making experience in general banking including industrial lending, commercial credits and property finance.

A Corporate Finance Executive preferably professionally qualified with some worthwhile experience of acquisition, merger, new issue and corporate advisory work gained either in the merchant banking sector or in an industrial environment.

Each of these positions will carry an attractive salary together with a profit-sharing scheme, a car, mortgage subsidy and non-contributory pension and life assurance.

Please write in confidence, giving details of career to date and current salary, to W. P. M. Kerr, Manager, Henry Ansbacher & Co. Limited, Charlotte House, 17 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DJ.

## Financial Analyst with international experience

We are looking for an analyst and report writer (age up to about 30) for our international corporate finance activities. Some knowledge of foreign languages would be desirable.

Apply with curriculum vitae to:  
The Staff Manager, N. M. Rothschild & Sons Ltd., P.O. Box 185, New Court, St. Swinburn Lane, London EC4P 4DU.

N. M. Rothschild & Sons Limited



## International Merchanting

(c. £5,500 Plus Car)

An international trading company—part of a large British group—requires two entrepreneurs, aged 28-35, to spearhead the next stage of its overseas development.

You will identify and evaluate business opportunities, make recommendations to the Board, and develop agreed projects to the stage where they can be handed over to line management. The posts require a successful track record in business, with a marketing and sales development bias, together with flair, commercial acumen—and above all, the capacity for personal career progression, which is inherent in both appointments. You will probably be a graduate. You must certainly have had personal responsibility in a dynamic business environment. Central London base. Overseas travel.

Please write giving full personal and career details, quoting ref: 247RV/FT to:

**Robert Lee International**

24 BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON W1X 6AR.

In no circumstances will applicants' identities be disclosed to our client without authority.

## Group Personnel Director

£8,000-£10,000

London

Our client is a major force in the leisure industry with over 10,000 employees and an annual turnover in excess of £300m.

Reporting direct to the Chairman and Chief Executive, the Personnel Director will be totally accountable for the Group's personnel policies. Major responsibilities will include—

- executive recruitment
- salary and compensation administration
- employee relations
- organisation development
- corporate communications
- strategic planning

As a member of the Group planning committee he will be expected to play a major role in acquisitions, finance and corporate planning.

This is a tough personnel job which requires total commitment to the organisation and the

development of its human resources.

Applicants must have a direct approach to problem solving and have the stamina and flexibility to control a developing function in a change situation. A background of at least 10 years in multi-functional and multi-industry environments is essential.

For a pure personnel professional there will be the early prospects of a main board appointment and equity participation.

In the first instance please write for an application form, quoting reference C/514S, to Mr. S. Smith, AK Selection, 20 Soho Square, London W1A 7DS, or telephone 01-734 6404 (daytime) or 01-734 2590 (after 5 p.m.). Your identity will not be disclosed without your permission.

**AK SELECTION**

## Overseas Marketing Executive

■ The International MacGregor Organisation requires a highly experienced executive fully conversant with all aspects of Cargo transportation and with personal in-depth involvement inside the Maritime Sector.

■ His responsibilities will relate to certain areas of South America, Africa and the Pacific where there is no resident representation and the economics of advantage to be gained from this usage of modern cargo handling equipment must be emphasised by frequent personal contacts at high level. The acceptance of a large proportion of time spent away from home (say 75%) is therefore essential.

■ The successful candidate will benefit from highly attractive participation formulae and be given all the necessary responsibility within a truly international dynamic team with a world-wide reputation and an excellent growth record. English language is compulsory but nationality, country of residence, age, academic qualifications etc. are of less importance than proven ability, dynamism and a strong personality.

■ Please apply in confidence giving brief details and quoting Ref: OM/87/FT.

**Leslie Coulthard Management**

Brettenham House, 14 Lancaster Place, London WC2

## Analyst

A leading firm of London Stockbrokers requires an analyst with knowledge of the South African mining and industrial market.

Candidates, who might be in their late twenties or early thirties, should have had some previous experience in this field.

Remuneration will be by negotiation and the usual fringe benefits are available.

Applicants should write to:

**WALTER JUDD LIMITED (Ref.A245),**  
(Incorporated Practitioners in Advertising)  
12, Bow Lane, London, EC4A 9EJ.

Replies should specify any firm to which applications should not be sent. If appropriate, such replies will then be destroyed.

### THE PAINLESS WAY TO FIND A

## SENIOR SECRETARY

If you need a PA Secretary, a girl with the Right background and qualifications to assist you in your work with smooth efficiency, then you also need a high calibre service to interview and short-list applicants for you.

Please ring Nicola Mackenzie on 629 5747, the SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS DIVISION OF ADVENTURE.

### EXPERIENCED STOCK EXCHANGE GENERAL OFFICE CLERKS

We have excellent openings for Male and Female staff.

Call in confidence  
**SE. CLERKS CAREERS & EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT**  
14, Austin Friars, E.C.2  
Tel: 01-588 3015

## Top Executive for Spode

This new top-level opportunity arises from planned re-organisation of Spode Limited—a company with over 200 years' leadership in the manufacture and sale of fine tableware, employing some 900 people and now part of a major multi-national group.

The position carries direct responsibility for the total management of the business with key tasks in improving operating performance and in directing and controlling continued profitable development whilst also safeguarding the vital aspects of product quality and consumer satisfaction. Success will lead to early Board appointment with ample further career prospects within the group.

Ideal applicants will probably already be in the tableware industry; all must have a proven record of significant success in a profit-accountable general management role but those without specific industry experience must have compensatory advantages e.g. experience of applying modern management techniques in a valid market/product sector, business school background etc.

The terms of employment including salary, bonus, company car, pension should not be a barrier to the best available man.

All replies will be handled in the strictest confidence and interested parties are invited to send brief relevant details to:

Mr. P. Thompson,  
Spode Limited, 69 Grosvenor Street,  
London, W1X 9DB

## Group Company Secretary

Singapore £13,000 +

Sime Darby Holdings Ltd., is the parent company of a large, rapidly expanding, international group. It is located in Singapore and has subsidiaries in Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, U.K., U.S.A., as well as Singapore itself. Of the businesses in which it is presently engaged, heavy equipment dealerships, plantations, trading and financial services are the most important and these are all growing fast.

With the retirement in the first half of next year of the present Group Secretary, a rare opportunity arises for a suitably experienced man to join the company at a senior level. The main functions of the job are:

1. To be responsible for all secretarial and legal matters pertaining to the holding company.
2. To ensure that this responsibility is adequately met in all subsidiary and associated companies.
3. To provide an overall advisory service to group companies on these matters.

Applicants should preferably have legal and chartered secretary qualifications but accountants with a knowledge of company law and stock exchange requirements may also be considered. International experience in one or more large public companies would be a distinct advantage. Whilst maturity and experience are looked for, no age constraint is imposed. Evidence of past achievements and drive will certainly be taken into account.

The successful candidate will be offered a three year contract, subject to normal termination clauses. Total remuneration will be subject to negotiation but will be commensurate with responsibilities and will therefore not be less than S\$175,000 p.a. (approximately £13,000) plus accommodation and a car.

Applications for this position, together with curriculum vitae, should be addressed to:

M. E. Doherty, Sime Darby London Ltd,  
19 Leadenhall St, London, EC3V 1NN.

## International Financial Group

## NEW ISSUES - NIGERIA c. £7,500

A major British Financial Group of international standing, and with growing merchant banking interests in West Africa is expanding the activities of its Nigerian subsidiary.

The Group now wishes to appoint a Manager for the New Issues Department, based in Lagos. In addition to running the Department his responsibilities will include the training and installation of his successor. Initially his tour will be for not more than two years, thereafter his re-employment within the group will be safeguarded.

Applicants should be qualified accountants with experience of new

issues, probably gained in a UK Merchant Bank.

Total remuneration including allowances, will be about £7,500 p.a. Fringe benefits include free housing and company car. (Ref. A8831/FT)

REPLIES will be forwarded direct, unopened and in confidence to the client unless addressed to our Secretary Manager listing companies to which they may not be sent. They should include comprehensive career details, not refer to previous correspondence with PA and quote the reference on the envelope.



**PA ADVERTISING LIMITED,**  
2 Albert Gate, London SW1X 7JU.  
Tel: 01-235 6060

## EDITOR for ACCOUNTANCY AGE

Britain's leading weekly paper for the accountancy profession is seeking a bright and energetic new editor.

Accountancy Age has an influential circulation, among 65,000 accountants, stockbrokers and investment analysts. Apart from its extensive weekly news and technical coverage, the paper also includes a substantial self-contained investment section.

The next editor will preferably be a qualified accountant and probably a graduate, in his late twenties or thirties. He must be literate and have a lively interest in the practice and theory of all aspects of accountancy—including public practice, management accounting and government finance. An inquisitive attitude to company accounts would be expected. Previous journalistic experience is an advantage, but is not a necessity provided applicants have a proven aptitude for journalism. The editor's function is primarily one of leadership, and apart from technical knowledge the candidate

must have imagination, drive and enthusiasm. There is an overall editorial staff of 15 with three supporting editors—covering news, features and the investment section respectively.

Salary will be negotiable. Accountancy Age is published by Haymarket Publishing Ltd, a young and exceptionally fast growing company publishing over 40 magazines—they include, Management Today, Campaign and Computing, employing 600 people and having a turnover this year in excess of £7 million. Progression in the company into group management positions is encouraged among people showing appropriate publishing and management ability.

Apply in writing to:  
Robert Willott (Publisher)  
Haymarket Publishing Ltd  
Gillow House  
5 Wincley Street  
LONDON W1A 2HG

## ACCOUNTANCY APPOINTMENTS

## CONTROLLER

### FINANCIAL DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

George Meller Limited, international suppliers of machinery and equipment for the Oil and Process Industries with offices in the U.K. and on the Continent require a top calibre Group Controller.

The ideal applicant would be aged 30-40, a qualified accountant with experience in management accounting, mergers, acquisitions and international trade. He must have a congenial and firm personality with good educational background, preferably a degree.

This key appointment carries an initial salary of £6,000 plus a car and excellent prospects in a rapidly expanding group.

Please write in strictest confidence to Mr. George M. J. Meller, Orion Park, Northfield Avenue, Ealing, London W.13.

01-235 6060







# WALL STREET + OVERSEAS MARKETS + FOREIGN EXCHANGES

## Sharp technical rally: up 22

## Gold over \$100

BY OUR WALL STREET CORRESPONDENT

**SHARP TECHNICAL rally** The American Market Value developed on Wall Street today. Index rose 1.53 to 94.23 and advanced on the Stock Market having its upturning issues outnumbered declines by 333 to 318 in a volume of 3.314m. (3.490m). Shares scored its best gain in more than six months.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened 12.87 up at \$30.60, partially reacted to \$19.69 by mid-day, up a net 1.06, before rising strongly to close at \$39.73, an advance of 22.05 on the day. The NYSE All Common Index rose 1.03 to \$32.05, while gains led by 1,101 to 1,062. Trading volume expanded 240,000 shares to 19,892m.

Some analysts said the Stock Market may have been held back by Deputy Treasury Secretary William Simon, who said the markets behavior in recent days appears to be "an over-reaction" caused by "a lack of understanding of the magnitude of the economic and energy requirements and the ability of the economy to adjust to this shortfall by reducing energy input per unit of output."

Blue Chips were strong. Alcoa gained \$1 to \$63.1, Anaconda \$2 to \$24.1, Eastman Kodak \$5 to \$32.1 and General Electric \$2 to \$29.1.

IBM was lifted \$3 to \$269.1, Texas Instruments \$2 to \$31.1, Xerox \$4 to \$33.1, Pullman \$3 to \$8.1, Fluor \$2 to \$30.1 and Eastman Kodak \$5 to \$32.1. U.S. Steel \$1 to \$34.1 and Wal-Mart \$4 to \$46.1.

Polard, however, fell \$1 to \$21.1.

Oils were among the gainers. Atlantic Richfield climbed \$4 to \$34.1, Standard Oil of California \$2 to \$33.1 and Natamex \$2 to \$33.1.

Exxon improved \$2 to \$39.1 and Superior Oil rose \$2 to \$30.1.

The Cement Industry, which was exempted from Phase 4 Wage and Price Controls, largely showed strong gains. Kaiser Cement and Cymus improved \$1 to \$8.1.

General Portland \$1 to \$11.1, Alpha Portland \$1 to \$11.1, Lone Star Industries \$2 to \$11.1.

Bucyrus Erie moved up \$3 to \$46.1, it signed a letter of intent with China for the sale of \$17.5m. of electric mining shovels.

Matsumita Electric picked up \$1 to \$18.1, and Sony \$2 to \$31.1, each reflected an announcement that Japan will be exempted from the next 5 per cent cut in oil supplies under the Arab Oil Embargo policy.

American Motors put on \$1 to \$34.1, General Motors \$1 to \$30.1 and National Semiconductor \$1 to \$48.1.

Gulf and Western Industries rose \$1 to \$23.1, it intends to offer Debentures for its own Common stock.

Oneida dropped \$1 to \$11.1 on a fall in net earnings for the third quarter.

Rehlin gained \$1 to \$26.1 on its estimated first quarter sales gain of 25 to 30 per cent over a year ago.

### OTHER MARKETS

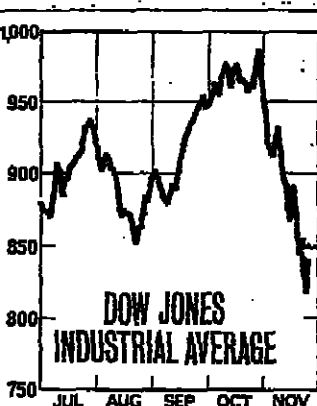
#### Canada rallies

Canadian Markets rallied in active trading yesterday morning. The Gold Share Index shot up 17.09 to 337.35. Industrials picked up 0.57 to 33.85. Basic Metals also rose 0.37 to 85.05. Western Oils advanced 4.04 to 268.63. Banks rose 2.98 to 270.72 and Papers put on 2.21 to 129.21.

**BRUSSELS** - Domestic issues were higher on the Forward Market on some optimism for an easing in Arab oil policies. The Cash Market, however, still tended easier.

Electricals, Glass, Metals and Rubbers firmed. Petrofina gained B.Fr.160 to B.Fr.230 and CBR rose B.Fr.170 to B.Fr.230 in otherwise easier Conditions. Cockerill firmed B.Fr.36 to B.Fr.107 in mixed Stocks. UCB were B.Fr.100 higher at B.Fr.2,600 in easier Chemicals. Properties and Non-Ferrous Metals were mixed. Banks, Holdings, Transp. and Coal Mines and Textiles lost ground.

Gold shares advanced strongly while German and British stocks firmed. Dutch, French and Canadian were mixed. U.S. stocks were easier.



NEW YORK, Nov. 28.

**STOCK AND BOND YIELDS**

Nov. 28, 1973

Stock	Yield
10% Treasury Note	10.75
15% Treasury Note	15.75
20% Treasury Note	20.75
25% Treasury Note	25.75
30% Treasury Note	30.75
35% Treasury Note	35.75
40% Treasury Note	40.75
45% Treasury Note	45.75
50% Treasury Note	50.75
55% Treasury Note	55.75
60% Treasury Note	60.75
65% Treasury Note	65.75
70% Treasury Note	70.75
75% Treasury Note	75.75
80% Treasury Note	80.75
85% Treasury Note	85.75
90% Treasury Note	90.75
95% Treasury Note	95.75
100% Treasury Note	100.75

### Gold over \$100

Gold rose by the exceptional amount of \$3 an ounce (about \$230 a cent) in the London market on the possibility of gold flowing to the Middle East had an impact, the previous \$92.93. Unusually for the time of a sharply rising gold price, the U.S. dollar was appreciably stronger against major currencies in the market. Sterling fell to its lowest level for just over a year in terms of the dollar, ending at \$2.3353, against the previous \$2.3565-\$2.3584, for a loss of 215 points (about 0.91 per cent). A one point quote was quoted around \$2.3525, while its trade-weighted average depreciation since the Washington Currency Agreement of December 1971, against the dollar, was 10.57 per cent. The morning gold fixing was at \$97.25 (\$146.68), and the afternoon at \$101.50 (\$143.40).

### FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Nov. 28, 1973	Nov. 27, 1973	Nov. 26, 1973
New York	71.2320	71.2320
London	2.3353	2.3565
Paris	66.20	66.20
Frankfurt	1.44	1.44
Geneva	1.44	1.44
Basel	1.44	1.44
Zurich	1.44	1.44
Stockholm	1.44	1.44
Copenhagen	1.44	1.44
Oslo	1.44	1.44
Amsterdam	1.44	1.44
Brussels	1.44	1.44
Luxembourg	1.44	1.44
Madrid	1.44	1.44
Barcelona	1.44	1.44
Valencia	1.44	1.44
Seville	1.44	1.44
Granada	1.44	1.44
Malaga	1.44	1.44
Cadiz	1.44	1.44
San Sebastian	1.44	1.44
Bilbao	1.44	1.44
Vitoria	1.44	1.44
Pamplona	1.44	1.44
Leioa	1.44	1.44
Barakaldo	1.44	1.44
Getxo	1.44	1.44
Leizor	1.44	1.44
Amara	1.44	1.44
Barakaldo	1.44	1.44
Getxo	1.44	1.44
Leizor	1.44	1.44
Amara	1.44	1.44

### EXCHANGE CROSS-RATES

Nov. 28, 1973	Nov. 27, 1973	Nov. 26, 1973
Frankfurt	2.3353	2.3565
Geneva	2.3353	2.3565
Basel	2.3353	2.3565
Zurich	2.3353	2.3565
Stockholm	2.3353	2.3565
Copenhagen	2.3353	2.3565
Oslo	2.3353	2.3565
Amsterdam	2.3353	2.3565
Brussels	2.3353	2.3565
Luxembourg	2.3353	2.3565
Madrid	2.3353	2.3565
Barcelona	2.3353	2.3565
Valencia	2.3353	2.3565
Seville	2.3353	2.3565
Granada	2.3353	2.3565
Malaga	2.3353	2.3565
Cadiz	2.3353	2.3565
San Sebastian	2.3353	2.3565
Bilbao	2.3353	2.3565
Vitoria	2.3353	2.3565
Pamplona	2.3353	2.3565
Leioa	2.3353	2.3565
Barakaldo	2.3353	2.3565
Getxo	2.3353	2.3565
Leizor	2.3353	2.3565
Amara	2.3353	2.3565

### EURO-AREA INTEREST RATES

Nov. 28, 1973	Nov. 27, 1973	Nov. 26, 1973
Short-term	12.12%	12.12%
Three months	12.12%	12.12%
Six months	12.12%	12.12%
One year	12.12%	12.12%
Two years	12.12%	12.12%
Three years	12.12%	12.12%
Four years	12.12%	12.12%
Five years	12.12%	12.12%
Six years	12.12%	12.12%
Seven years	12.12%	12.12%
Eight years	12.12%	12.12%
Nine years	12.12%	12.12%
Ten years	12.12%	12.12%

### OTHER MARKET RATES

Nov. 28, 1973	Nov. 27, 1973	Nov. 26, 1973
Argentina	11.55	11.55
Brazil	1.44	1.44
Canada	1.44	1.44
France	1.44	1.44
Germany	1.44	1.44
Italy	1.44	1.44
Japan	1.44	1.44
South Africa	1.44	1.44
Switzerland	1.44	1.44
Taiwan	1.44	1.44
Thailand	1.44	1.44
U.S.	1.44	1.44
U.K.	1.44	1.44

### FORWARD RATES

Nov. 28, 1973	Nov. 27, 1973	Nov. 26, 1973
Short-term	12.12%	12.12%
Three months	12.12%	12.12%
Six months	12.12%	12.12%
One year	12.12%	12.12%
Two years	12.12%	12.12%
Three years	12.12%	12.12%
Four years	12.12%	12.12%
Five years	12.12%	12.12%
Six years	12.12%	12.12%
Seven years	12.12%	12.12%
Eight years	12.12%	12.12%
Nine years	12.12%	12.12%
Ten years	12.12%	12.12%

### INDICES

#### NEW YORK

NEW YORK					
DOW JONES AVERAGES					
	Close	Bonds	Indus.	Util.	Trading 900's
Nov. 28	72.96	172.98	925.76	89.12	19,850
27	72.96	168.91	919.73	89.28	18,500
26	73.04	168.72	904.98	89.45	19,400
25	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
24	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
23	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
22	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
21	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
20	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
19	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
18	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
17	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
16	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
15	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
14	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
13	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
12	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
11	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
10	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
9	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
8	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400
7	73.04	168.72	894.98	89.45	19,400















## ENGINEERING AND METAL—Cont.

**HOTELS—Continued**

STOCKS										BANKS AND BOND PURCHASE										F.T. SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE										ENGINEERING AND METAL											
Stock	Price	Yield	Div.	Int.	Red.	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.	Int.	Red.	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.	Int.	Red.	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.	Int.	Red.	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.	Int.	Red.	High	Low		
"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)										BUILDING INDUSTRY—Continued										DRAPERY AND STORES—Continued										INDUSTRIALS—Miscellaneous											
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	Algonquin	100	11.50	11.50</																						



**OL'S—Continued**

STOCKS										BONDS									
Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	High	Low	Open	Close	Settle	Yield	Bond	Price	Chg	Vol	High	Low	Open	Close	Settle	Yield
Am. Tobacco	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Sugar	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Oil	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Cotton	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Rubber	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Paper	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Glass	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Steel	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Lumber	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Food	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Textile	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Chemical	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Electric	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Telephone	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Gas	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Water	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Transportation	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Insurance	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Real Estate	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Miscellaneous	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Foreign	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. International	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5
Am. Global	100	+1	100	101	99	100	100	100	4.5	U.S. Gov. 4%	100	0	100	100	99	100	100	100	4.5





## Lombard Change of official tune on gold role

BY GORDON TETHER

"SENTIMENT is now in such a delicate state," London's leading bullion dealer is reported to have said immediately after the two-year agreement was wound up. "that taken as a whole, the bankers would smash the market." Why, then, have they not happened—seeing that the U.S. and some other countries have never made any secret of their wish to see the gap between the open market figure and the official parity greatly reduced?

Probably part of the answer is that the central banking community is by no means as convinced that official selling would do anything more than reveal just how many eager buyers there are for gold once its price drops materially below the \$100 per ounce level.

I doubt, however, whether this is the whole of the explanation for the restrained attitude that monetary authorities have adopted towards their supposed new opportunity to "smash the market." The remainder of it is almost certainly to be found in a basic change in the prevailing official attitude towards the gold demonetisation theme.

What I am thinking of is a change stemming from the acceptance of the proposition that the world's financial and economic plight has now become too serious to leave room for any more "brave new world" philosophising of the "gold is a barbaric relic" type.

### Salient fact

Washington still occasionally pays lip service to the idea of demonetising gold, but only in extremely muted form. And the device it used to announce the demise of the two-year agreement contains a strong suggestion that it has stopped contemplating taking practical measures—either on its own or in collaboration with countries—to advance the cause.

The presumption is that it has had to face up to one salient fact of current international financial life. This is that conducting a campaign aimed at finally destroying an element in the monetary system that could be very helpful indeed in getting the world through the present stormy waters is inevitably coming to look frivolous—not to say irresponsible—to the rest of the world.

One thing is, after all, abundantly clear from the light that U.S. Treasury Secretary Schultz has thrown on his week-end talks with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the French and German Finance Ministers. It is that, by further complicating an already highly complicated international financial situation, the oil crisis and such other worrying developments as the fall in the £ have produced something closely resembling total confusion in the official mind. All that Mr. Schultz felt able to say about the international monetary reform prospect was that the Committee of Twenty would try to do what was appropriate. It seems that it is no longer even considered certain that it will be able to complete its work by the distant July 31, 1974, deadline.

### Instantly

It is, of course, the case that the ordeal that gold has undergone at the hands of the demonetisation campaign during the past ten years has left it so badly mangled that a decision to re-establish it at the centre of a reconstructed international monetary system would first have some very difficult problems to overcome. The state of the basic supply-demand relationship for gold at both private and official levels is, for instance, now almost impossible to calculate. So it would be extremely hard to decide at what figure a new official parity could be conveniently established without running the risk of being immediately rendered out of date by burgeoning private demand.

But needs must when the Devil drives. And if the deterioration in the world monetary climate continues for much longer at the recent pace, we may before long reach the point at which it will be incumbent on the pace-setting countries to think up ways of getting the ship back on an even keel which are both simple and capable of quick implementation. Can it be doubted that in such a situation, the case for featuring gold in a major rehabilitation operation, the one form of international money that still commands respect throughout the world would stand out like a lighthouse in a dark sea? For is it possible to think of anything that could make such an impact instantly upon the prevailing interest in the re-introduction of meaningful convertibility, hinged on a realistic bond relationship between gold and currencies?

## THE LEX COLUMN

# Three questions to ask about Tesco

The first question to ask about Tesco is whether it is still a growth stock. A 214 per cent sales increase in the six months to mid-August provides a quick answer to that one: the gain would have been a point or more higher on a comparable indirect tax basis, and it apparently includes about 10 per cent of price inflation. The comparison is with a rise of around 15/16 per cent for all food multiples over the period, and 16 per cent for Sainsbury in the six months to September. The rise was spread evenly over foods and non-foods, and has been maintained so far in the second half—which also takes in over two-thirds of this year's new openings. Trading margins are down, but higher interest receipts take the pre-tax total up a fifth to £10.4m, and with no major problems about reference levels this year's target comes out at about £25.1m, against £21.7m.

The next question is whether Tesco will continue to be a growth situation. The competition has not noticed any recent change in its price competitive-

ness, although the group reckons that switching from a regional to a national pricing structure has temporarily held back prices and trading margins. In any event, the rate of physical expansion in 1973-74 can comfortably be projected ahead over the next couple of years. The number one priority now, according to the management, is to increase the size of its outlets—of which perhaps two-thirds are still 5,000 square feet or under.

Finally, we have to ask whether a prospective p/e of maybe 12½—still about 6½ points below Sainsbury—at last marks the bottom so far as stock market enthusiasm is concerned. There is, of course, no neat answer. But it may just be that the shares are building up support at 52½p. Monday's low of 50p compared with low points in the spring and autumn of 52p and 51½p respectively.

### Johnson Matthey

The impressive relative

strength of the Johnson Matthey share price through most of this year has been followed by marked weakness during the November slide, as the oil crisis throws doubt on the projections of lucrative expansion in platinum refining. In fact, output at Rustenburg has been rising in line with the plan to reach an annual rate of 1.3m. oz. by end-1973. But the U.S. fuel shortage and threats of new point to the talk of postponement of U.S. anti-pollution measures (although GM has claimed that catalysts might actually improve fuel consumption). However this may work out, cutbacks in the world oil and chemical industries, would directly affect the use of platinum catalysts.

But for the moment JM is moving ahead smoothly, with second quarter profits of £3.54m, pre-tax against £3.17m. In April June, taking the half-time total up by 83 per cent. And it would be wrong to put too much stress on the platinum uncertainties,

for the group is well spread in chemicals and fabrication, while a prospective p/e of probably little over seven scarcely implies a premium for the platinum potential. The real point is that the group's vulnerability to a general recession became obvious enough in 1971-72 for the market's caution to be understandable at this stage.

### Avon Rubber

Unlike the situation at Dunlop Limited, Avon Rubber's overseas operations have been the saving of its 1972-73 growth rate. They have turned round from a loss of a £255,000 profit to a group pre-tax total of £2.235m, compared with £2.1m. forecast and £2.01m. for 1971-1972. That does not say much for the home market, but it could hardly be expected to shine after the SMMT's Motor Show estimated that U.K. car production was 8 per cent down in Avon's year to end-September. Reduced demand here, with strikes at the assembler customers playing a big part, meant

overproduction in tyres, pressure on original equipment margins, and more need for promotional discounts in the replacement market.

Not surprisingly, in that context, Avon points up the growth in its non-tyre interests, up from 14 per cent, through 38 per cent to 43 per cent of the total over the past two years. Unfortunately (for the moment) sensible diversification is often into allied products. Perhaps 70 per cent of Avon's profits come from the motor industry in one way or another, which leaves it exposed to questions about oil availability, petrol prices and car usage. So a share price of 128p, and a net fully taxed p/e of 8.3, will remain sensitive to oil stories—and, conversely, to Avon's moves to diversify away from its motor industry orientation.

### Canadian property

Given the estimate that yields on prime Canadian properties have come down from 11 per cent to 7 per cent, over the past eighteen months, the uplift

accorded to Star (Great Britain) Trieze operation over there could be an important component of its forthcoming revaluation. Star, it will be remembered, had a fairly sizeable stake in MEPC at one stage; the speculation was that Star was interested in a link with MEPC's big Canadian portfolio.

It is the more interesting, therefore, that MEPC Canadian Properties, making a Can.\$54m offer for the Dollar Land properties in Canada, has largely gone for a price approximating to 1967 valuations. The Dollar Land Board "is minded to recommend your Canadian subsidiary to accept . . . but is inviting shareholders to approve this action. Whether this is in any way relevant to the problem of valuing Canadian properties—with few sellers to speak of—remains to be seen. Perhaps MEPC will enlighten us next week, when stage two of its rolling revaluation, expected to include its own Canadian operation, is due to be produced.

## Ulster MP carried out as Assembly is suspended

BY RHYS DAVID

BELFAST, Nov. 28.

BUSINESS in the Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended here today after noisy scenes by the 29-strong group of independent Unionists who had three times brought proceedings to a halt.

The Assembly was meeting for the first time since the successful outcome of the inter-party talks to form an executive and the "loyalists" were determined that the occasion should not be one for celebration.

The first scene came 20 minutes after the start of proceedings and led to the arrival of police.

Mr. John McGuade, a member of the Rev. Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, who was prominent in the disturbances at the first Assembly meeting in July, denounced the SDLP members of the new executive alleging past association with the IRA and with law-breaking.

His attack was principally directed to Mr. Paddy Devlin, an internee in the 1940s who is to be Minister of Health, and Mr. Austin Currie, the Minister of Housing, who was once involved in a squatting incident.

After he had refused to be called to order, Mr. Nat Minford, the Speaker, ordered the Assembly security officer, Capt. John Cartwright, RN, to eject Mr. McGuade from the chamber. The Assembly was adjourned.

Ten minutes later, after Capt. Cartwright had failed to persuade Mr. McGuade, an ex-dockworker and former boxer, to leave, the Assembly was adjourned again and a sergeant and a constable were called to remove Mr. McGuade. At this point, the Rev. Ian Paisley grouped his colleagues around Mr. McGuade.

After he had addressed the officers, Mr. Paisley allowed them to lift Mr. McGuade by his legs from his seat and carry him from the chamber.

Later, the independent Unionists rounded on Mr. Faulkner's official Unionists with

shouts of "traitors out" and kept up this chant for a minute until the Speaker again adjourned the proceedings.

When the Assembly was reconvened, the arrival of several members of the SDLP to the Executive, including Mr. Gerry Fitt and Mr. Currie, produced another chanting chorus at Mr. Faulkner's supporters.

Efforts at resuming a debate on unemployment—a subject of direct concern to 25,000 unemployed people in northern Ireland—were abandoned less than two hours after the start of the day's business.

Whether it will be the tactics of Mr. Paisley's men to disrupt the Assembly in the future and thus invite a return to the road block, and two men died when their car crashed into hijacked lorry placed across the road near Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.

## Cosgrave wins vital seat

BY DOMINICK J. COYLE

DUBLIN, Nov. 28.

THE CRUCIAL Irish election in the border constituency of Monaghan resulted to-night in a slim victory for Mr. Brendan Toal, the Coalition Government candidate, an outcome which suggests less than wholehearted enthusiasm for the policies of Mr. Liam Cosgrave, the Prime Minister.

The result was in the balance right to the end of the long count, and even now, the Fianna Fáil opposition has demanded a recount. Fewer than 300 votes separated the leading two candidates out of a total poll of almost 31,000.

Government supporters in the constituency were jubilant over the winning of a seat from the opposition, thus increasing Mr. Cosgrave's overall majority in the Dáil to three.

It is evident that Fianna Fáil's

defeat was due not altogether to the combined campaign assault by the two coalition parties in Government—Fine Gael and Labour—but partly to the intervention of a third candidate representing the hardline Irish Unity party, a breakaway movement from Fianna Fáil which advocates an end to partition and to the British presence in Ulster.

Mr. Cosgrave, supported by almost all his Cabinet, campaigned actively in the constituency and asked for a mandate for his Government in advance of next week's tripartite talks on Ulster.

The result, subject to any recount and after the distribution of second preferences of the eliminated candidates, was as follows: Toal (Govt.) 15,098; O'Hanlon (Fianna Fáil) 14,787; Majority: 298.

Swan Hunter took a 25 per cent stake in Swan Maritime, the company owning and operating the ships, unless they are sold to a third party. Deliveries of the ships start with about ten at fixed prices next year and in 1975. Further deliveries are scheduled up to 1977.

Shortly after the Swan Hunter contract was agreed, Maritime Fruit announced in New York that it had arranged a 15-year time charter for a large proportion of the tanker tonnage it has on order for 1975 and 1976. The charters would bring the company a minimum gross income of \$620m. over the period of the charter, but MFC would not disclose the charterers' identity.

MFC's earnings for the first nine months of this year fell 46.3 per cent to \$5.5m. In contrast, Swan Hunter's pre-tax profits in the first half of 1973 climbed from \$1.86m. to \$5.06m., including ship building grants of \$1.5m.

BRITAIN YESTERDAY came closer to suffering nationwide power cuts than at any stage since the start of the engineers' industrial action, three weeks ago.

The Central Electricity Generating Board warned that today's prospects were "poor," that voltage reductions again appear likely, and that there may have to be power cuts. The critical period has been extended by two hours, to cover the time between 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm.

The main reason for the deterioration in the supply position appears to be the spell of cold weather, which has increased demand, though the engineers' ban on out-of-hours work is cutting generating capacity by upwards of 2,000MW on some shifts.

The worsening situation is underlined by the fact that Tuesday is normally the evening of peak demand, since more time is worked than on other days. Yet yesterday's voltage

reductions were more serious than those on Tuesday.

Reductions became necessary much earlier than on Tuesday, or, on November 12, the only other day since the engineers' action began on which nationwide reductions proved necessary. After reducing voltages by 3 per cent at 1.30 p.m. yesterday, all area boards had made cuts of a further 3 per cent by 3.45 p.m.

"We were right on the brink," the CEBG said. "Clearly the need for electricity consumers to economise is greater than ever." The CEBG appealed for all unnecessary lights and appliances to be switched off during today's high-risk period.

Meanwhile, the CEBG's stocks of fossil fuel (coal and oil) have fallen to eight weeks of normal consumption from the level of 8½ weeks which was reported seven days ago.

The new contracts to import 1m. tons of coal during the winter—reported in detail in yesterday's Financial Times—will do little to offset the effect on the CEBG's coal stocks of the miners' overtime ban, since the Board plans to burn 42m. tons of coal this winter.

During the two months, clearances from hand of all types of spirits (usually a good indicator of sales) were almost one-third up on the same period last year.

4.59m. proof gallons against 3.37m. in 1972.

At the same time, the dollar strengthened further against other leading currencies, and the pound sterling again fell, both against the U.S. currency and on the trade-weighted basis, against all other currencies.

Last night the price of gold closed at \$101 an ounce on the London market, against \$92½ the day before, and sterling finished at \$2.3360 (it was \$2.3575 on Tuesday).

Copper cash wirebars jumped \$7.55 to \$1,040 a tonne, cash tin by \$90 to \$855 a tonne, and cash tin by \$107.5 to \$2,542.5 a tonne.

Sterling falls

On a weighted basis the pound fell by over 1 per cent, to close at 18.37 per cent below Smithsonian levels, against 17.72 per cent on Tuesday.

An overriding influence in all markets yesterday was the continuing oil crisis. But it was also one of those days when confidence—or lack of it—was transmitted so fast between various markets that operators in the Gold market could cite the state of Commodity markets, and vice versa.

Yesterday's rise brings the gold price back to the sort of levels prevailing before the announcement a fortnight ago that central banks were now free to sell on the open market if they desired.

The apparent absence of the central banks from the market since the announcement was a factor behind yesterday's increase. There was also a feeling that buying was stimulated by the state of the major stock markets. Last but not least, there were purchases by Arab countries.

## Nationwide power cuts only just averted

BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

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## Demand for spirits up

DEMAND FOR spirits—whisky, gin, vodka, rum and brandy—continued at a high level in August and September, according to the Customs and Excise.

During the two months, clearances from hand of all types of spirits (usually a good indicator of sales) were almost one-third up on the same period last year.

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